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Running, jumping and climbing trees for 58 years.

MARTLET

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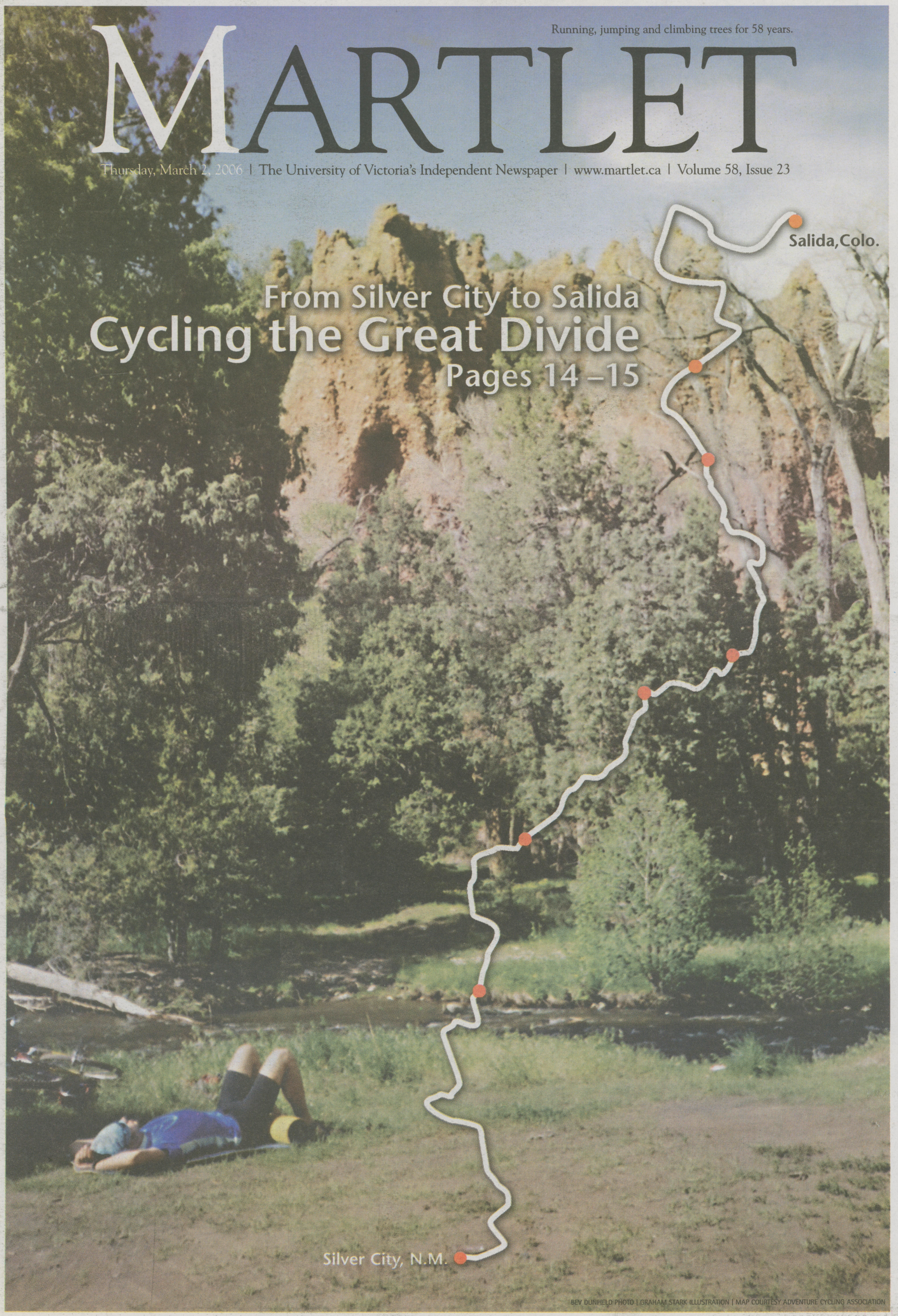

From Silver City to Salida

Cycling the Great Divide

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Referendum asks students to boost funding for refugees

by Kate Webb

As Jok Gai, 25, stepped off a plane at the Vancouver International Airport last September, he carried with him a bleak past marred by war, hunger, and despair.

Orphaned by the genocide in southern Sudan, Gai fled his burning village at the age of 10, only to wind up trapped in a starving and tumultuous refugee camp in Kenya. He remained there until the UVic chapter of World University Service of Canada (WUSC) picked up his Student Refugee Program application to come and study at UVic.

Upon arriving in Canada, Gai became fast friends with the WUSC members who were integral to giving him the opportunity to escape the refugee camp and earn a Canadian degree.

"All of them are like brothers and sisters [to me]. At least, that is how I look at them, and I guess they look at me the same way," said Gai with a smile.

WUSC UVic currently sponsors one student refugee every two years. Funding is granted to youth from war-torn zones, covering their first year of tuition, living expenses, and travel costs.

But that's not enough, according to Gai and WUSC UVic's members. They're now asking students to authorize a raise in student fees to support three student refugees—instead of one—every two years. This referendum question will be posed to students in conjunction with the upcoming UVSS elections: "Do you support World University Service of Canada (WUSC)'s Student Refugee Program with a student fee increase of $1.00 per full-time student per semester and $0.50 per part-time student per semester?"

The Student Refugee Program (SRP) currently gets 50 cents from each full-time student 25 cents from part-time students each semester.

"Students should vote 'yes' to this referendum because one of the most important aspects of a student's settlement to Canada and student life at UVic is having a community of friends who understand and share his or her experience," said Kristen Holten, the program's logistics co-ordinator.

"Other universities who sponsor two or three students a year are able to create a community of sponsored students on their campuses and in their cities to assist with the settlement of future students. By sponsoring one student every two years, as UVic does now, it is extremely difficult to create [this] community . . . since students graduate or move on to other pursuits before a third successive student arrives."

Gai, who is studying first year electrical engineering, said the program has opened doors to him he didn't even know existed, and that the SRP is mutually beneficial to UVic students.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Jok Gai, second from left, surrounded by some of the WUSC members who helped him get to Canada.

"It's very important that [students] come and vote, and vote 'yes,'" he said. "The many students I've interacted with are learning from me, and I'm learning from them. I'm telling people things they didn't even know existed in the world. It's important for people to know how people live in other parts of the world."

Even though no one is campaigning on the "no" side of the referendum, Gai said he is anxious to do everything he can to make sure it passes because he knows firsthand the profound difference the program can make in refugees' lives.

"My worry, and the worry of others, is that others just don't care to come out and vote," he said. "What students have to understand is that there are many students out there who cannot go to school because of war. If students give that extra dollar there are students who would otherwise never have gone to university who will get to go. [The students] have to weigh the importance of this."

WUSC UVic, which has sponsored students through the SRP for over a decade, has been campaigning for the referendum on campus by putting up banners and wearing red t-shirts sporting slogans in support of the cause.

"My impression of the impact this program has had on Jok and dozens of his friends who were also sponsored to other Canadian universities is that it provides empowerment through education," said Holten. "WUSC's SRP is a program of equal exchange—both the sponsored students' lives and the lives of the Canadians who befriend them are greatly enriched."

Students can vote on WUSC's referendum question, whether or not they vote in the UVSS elections, between 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8 and 4 p.m. on March 10, at any polling station on campus.

UVSS candidates kick off election campaign

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Director of Services candidate Kelly Clark gets his posters up.

by Kate Webb

Hand-painted posters plastered on every permissible surface on campus announced the start of campaigning for the 2006 UVic Students' Society (UVSS) election Feb. 27.

Chief electoral officer Ben Johnson and two deputy electoral officers are determined to ensure candidates' efforts are not in vain. They are on a mission to convince every eligible student to vote during the polling period, from 9 a.m. on March 8 to 4 p.m. on March 10.

Part of their resolve is due to past elections' less-than-stellar turnout—last year, a meagre 16.2 per cent of the student body cast ballots to elect a new student government. In the last few years, participation has been even lower.

"I would say that this year, we're trying to really focus on bringing attention to the election through creative and inventive means," said Johnson.

"Creative means" include an event the electoral officers are calling "DJs For Democracy," which will take place right in the middle of polling, March 9, from noon to 5 p.m. outside the SUB.

The idea is that the loud music will draw students in, Pied-Piper style, towards a polling station, where they will have the opportunity to peruse the candidates' platforms and cast their ballot. The event will also feature a beer garden, where students will be encouraged to vote—but no partisan campaigning will be allowed.

"I don't think posters are enough on their own," explained Johnson, adding that he has high hopes the event will have a big impact on the election turnout. "Even though it might be we just grab somebody to vote, they'll have the polling platform[s] right there, so they can get informed."

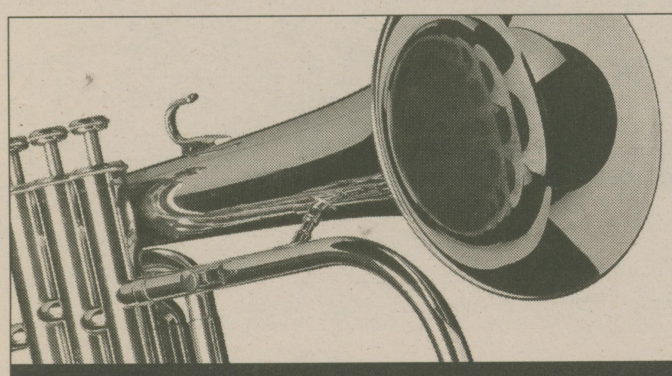
Students also have the opportunity to pick their favourite candidates by looking at the platforms beforehand, which are posted in various locations around campus and can be found inside on-campus copies of this issue of the *Martlet*. The advertising of platforms, as well as strict rules regarding campaigning, is mandated in the UVSS Electoral Policy Manual.

"Another major goal is to have a fair and transparent election process and for it to be seen that way," said deputy electoral officer Tim Lindsay. "We're doing our best to make all candidates aware of the rules that govern the electoral process by doing things such as [holding] a mandatory workshop [for candidates], and we're encouraging candidates, if there's any uncertainty in the rules, to be sure and ask us."

Every person registered in an undergraduate class at UVic is eligible to vote in the election, which will determine who fills four executive spots and 11 director-at-large positions within the UVSS. Two student representatives to the university's board of governors will also be elected.

Full-time UVic students currently pay $65.02 per semester in mandatory student fees. That money is distributed to campus advocacy and constituency groups, and used to run the Student Union Building and other student services.

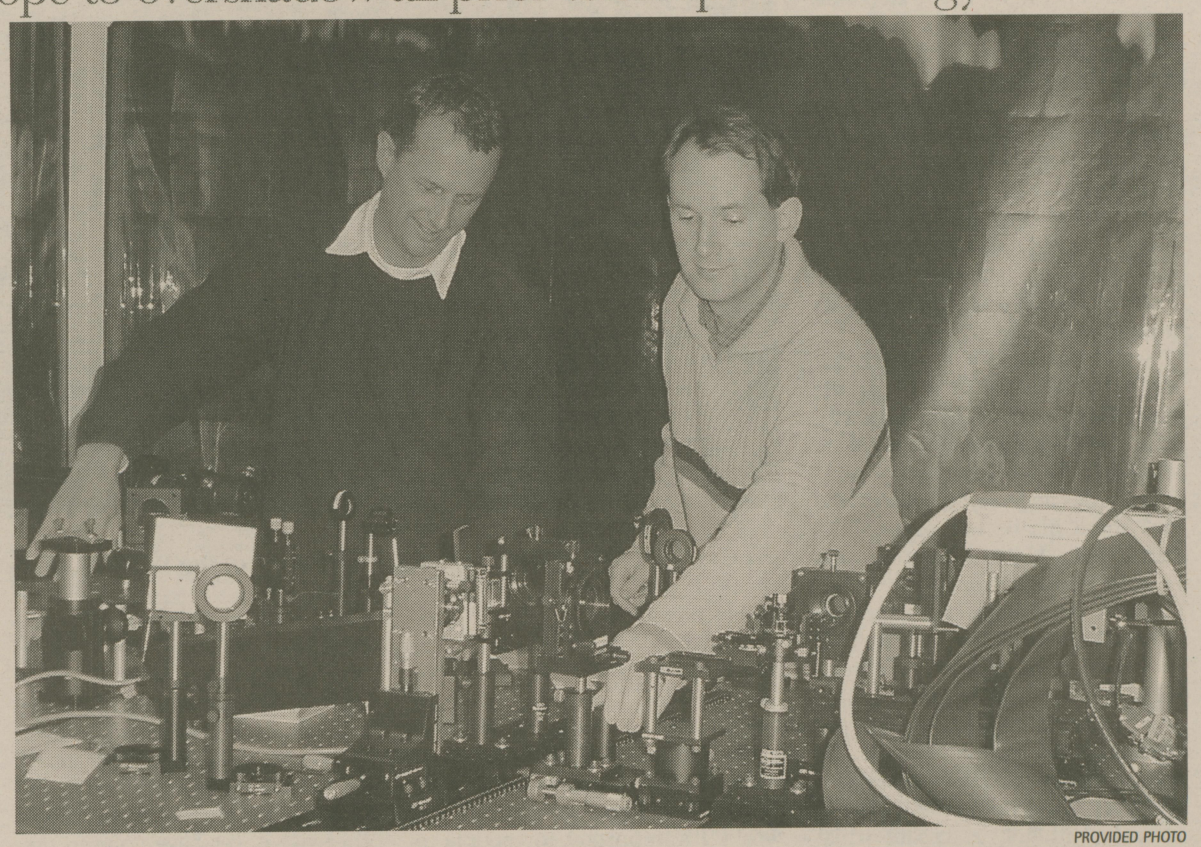
An all-candidates' debate is scheduled for Friday, March 3 at 2:30 p.m. A debate between the candidates running for chair of the UVSS will be held Tuesday, March 6 at 2 p.m. All debates will take place in Cinecenta in the SUB.



UVic engineers help build world's largest telescope

Thirty-metre telescope to overshadow all prior telescope technology

by Anthony Frattaroli



PROVIDED PHOTO

Colin Bradley, left, and Rodolphe Conan working on the test bench.

You can call it the past—the light from those twinkling things in the sky—but a lot of it is still coming straight toward us, and we've just got to build a telescope big enough to catch it. That's the theory in astronomy, anyway, and part of the reason why UVic researchers are helping to build the largest optical telescope in the world.

Light moves so quickly that, on smaller distance scales, its travel is practically instant. It takes approximately ten one-billionths of a second, for example, for the light from this page to reach your eyes. By contrast, it takes eight minutes for light to travel from the sun to the earth, and 4.3 years to travel here from Proxima Centauri, the sun's closest neighbour. This means that the light we see when we look up at Proxima Centauri paints a picture of the star not as it currently exists, but as it appeared 4.3 years ago, when that light was first emitted.

By peering into deep space, we can see the history of the universe, and the deeper into space we look—the dimmer and more far-away objects we can resolve—the further into the past we can see.

When it was completed in 1993, the 10-metre mirror of the Keck telescope was the largest in the world. A 36-segment mirror allowed Keck, perched atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii, to resolve images in greater detail than any optical telescope before it. The Keck telescope has been used to observe the atmospheres of other planets in our solar system, discover new galaxies, and help calculate the rate of expansion of the universe, among other projects.

UVic scientists and engineers are part of a collaborative North American effort to build a telescope with nine times the light-gathering power of the Keck, named simply TMT, or the Thirty-Metre Telescope. The TMT's primary mirror is 30 metres in diameter and will be supplemented by a secondary mirror composed of more than 700 individually adjustable segments. UVic researchers are helping design and test the adaptive optics system that will make this feat possible.

They have no small task ahead of them: each of the 738 hexagonal segments that make up the mirror must be monitored and adjusted 750 times a second, to within a ten-thousandth of a millimetre, in order to correct for atmospheric distortion and a variety of other physical forces.

Correcting for atmosphere is important in ground-based observation, explained Kim Venn, associate professor of physics and astronomy: "Otherwise, it's like looking at birds from the bottom of a swimming pool."

The TMT's instrumentation will also contain adaptive optics technology, courtesy of Dr. Colin Bradley's UVic adaptive optics group. Their work on two of the instruments will be put to use when construction of the telescope begins in 2010.

When completed, the TMT will have the ability to resolve astronomical objects up to 100 times more clearly than the Hubble space telescope. Even the Hubble's successor, the James Webb space telescope, may be hard-pressed to meet the expected performance of the TMT.

"That is, if everything works as it's supposed to," explained Venn, "and there's no reason that it wouldn't."

The original Keck telescope was duplicated in 1995 by an identical 10-metre sister scope, Keck II. By combining data from both telescopes in a process known as interferometry, astronomers can simulate the angular resolution of an 87-metre mirror. The Very Large Telescope (VLT) array in Chile is another complex example of an optical telescope designed for interferometry. Unfortunately, optical interferometry is a black art, and has so far not produced any usable results.

Inteferometry can not increase the light-gathering power of its component telescopes: the Keck array, like the VLT array, can only see objects as dim as each individual telescope alone might see. The advantage of interferometry lies in the greater detail provided of visible objects, but it cannot be used to probe deep space for faint objects, like the TMT can.

European consortia are already looking for ways to top the TMT—studies exploring the feasibility of telescopes as large as 100 metres are underway—but even if they are found to be workable, these won't be completed for at least 15 to 20 years. The TMT should therefore, upon its unveiling some 10 years from now, enjoy a healthy reign as the largest optical telescope in the world.

From the history of our universe to its most distant future, from questions of dark energy and black holes to the origin of the very elements which compose our bodies, the universe is rife with secrets, and scientists are always looking for new ways to plumb its vast reaches for clues.

The TMT will peer into deep space and help us understand where we've come from, and maybe even how. And on a clear night, with the help of UVic scientists, it may just be possible to see forever.

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Construction boom set to sweep campus

by Matthew Gauk

The end of L-Hut is near at hand. UVic is facing a major construction boom as a result of the provincial government creating 25,000 post-secondary student spaces across B.C.

The expansion plans, scheduled to take place mostly over the next two years, were laid out Feb. 21 by Tracy Corbett, director of campus planning. Building the Future is a $130-million capital expansion project to add research, learning and office space to UVic. Half of the 1,900 spaces planned for UVic have already been created and filled.

"In B.C. we have the lowest participation rate in post-secondary [education] of any province in Canada, and by quite a margin as well," said Corbett. "So that was a bit of an embarrassment to the government and they're putting tremendous amounts of money in across the province to attract students."

The building boom will include a $15 million addition and renovation for McPherson library, a new science building, a new social science and mathematics building, and a First Peoples House. Plans are being developed for a support services building as well.

Construction will start this summer on the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning, an expansion to the northeast side of McPherson library.

"Just in time for students arriving, we'll be chewing up the lawn area there," said Corbett with a laugh.

The library addition will include a media commons with audio and video capabilities, a writing centre, a peer tutoring space, and a cafe on the main floor. A grand staircase will face Ring Road, as well as a large sunken courtyard.

"We expect it will be quite a student area, so we're looking at options to put seating in there very much like an amphitheatre," Corbett said. "And the reason for doing that is it opens up the basement area of the library, which can be very bleak."

The stone facing on the two sides of the library closest to Petch Fountain and the Clearihue building will be removed and replaced with floor-to-ceiling glass.

The $66.6-million science building to the east of Elliot building will accommodate the school of earth & ocean sciences, the department of chemistry, an animal health-care unit, the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis, and the department of astronomy dome and roof-top telescopes.

"It's a massive project," said Corbett. "Our challenge right now is we're trying to find labour to pour the foundation."

Site preparation on the four-story building will begin in three to four weeks, depending on municipal approval, and construction is expected to last up until March of 2008.

L-Hut is one of several annexes to be removed and the workspace transferred to the new science building.

"It's quite disgusting right now, in terms of that particular hut," said Corbett. "It's absolutely revolting. There are a lot of dead birds and rabbits underneath it. It really needs to come down."

The $38.6-million-and-climbing social sciences and mathematics building will accommodate the departments of geography, environmental studies, political science and mathematics, and the Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

An excavator rests near McPherson library, where it is being used to facilitate underground development that will supply future services to a new science building and library addition.

The three-storey building, scheduled for completion in 2008, will have two large lecture theatres and a courtyard. It is also, according to Corbett, "the one that's going to create a little bit of grief on campus."

The building is to be situated in the parking lot between Sedgewick and the Business and Economics building on the inside of Ring Road near the stadium. Building on this site will mean a loss of trees and a loss of parking. The parking lot, which is mostly reserved parking, will likely be decommissioned by mid-March. UVic will lose 162 parking spaces in that project alone, including metered and motorcycle parking.

Other parking lots nearby will also be affected by dump-truck traffic, and several bus stops will be moved. Campus planning is confident that it can reroute parking to the less used fringe lots.

"The vacancy of parking overall is fairly high," said Corbett. "It averages on any given day somewhere between 15 to 25 per cent vacancy."

A First Peoples House will be constructed on part of the quadrangle between the Clearihue and Cornett buildings. The project, which has been in the works for some time, has stalled recently because of cost issues. Construction will kick in as soon as the necessary private funding is found, said Corbett.

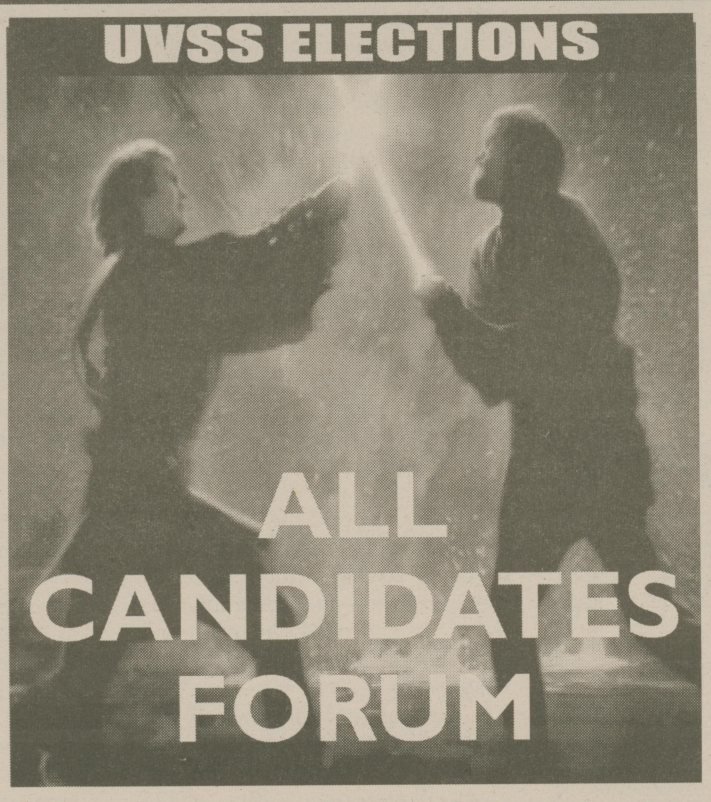
The House will accommodate an Aboriginal student advisor, Aboriginal liaison officer, the Native Students' Union, Indigenous Graduate Students' Society, and include a ceremonial hall, classrooms, faculty offices and a computer lab.

Preliminary plans are being drawn up for a support services building to house the offices of the university president, vice-presidents, and support services like budgeting and institutional planning.

Although students are not likely to see construction on the new building any time soon, the area allocated for it near the Continuing Studies building will be used as a gravel dumping site once the other buildings start to go up.

COME AND SEE YOUR FUTURE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES DUKE IT OUT!

The ALL CANDIDATES FORUMS will be held in early March. The candidates will be debating the issues important to all UVic students (*that's you*). Last year's attendance was fairly minimal, so to put it bluntly –



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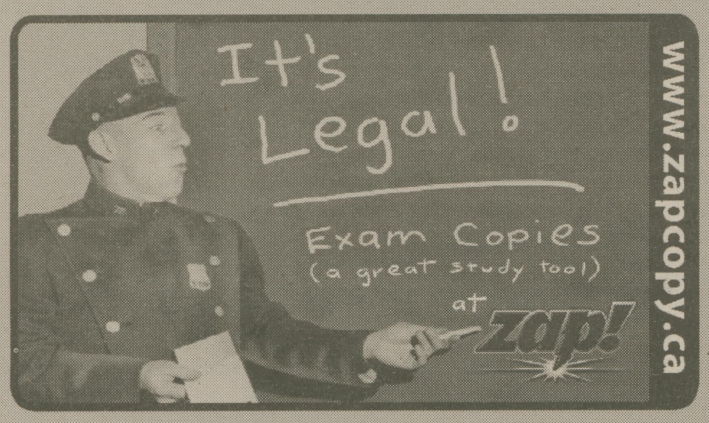

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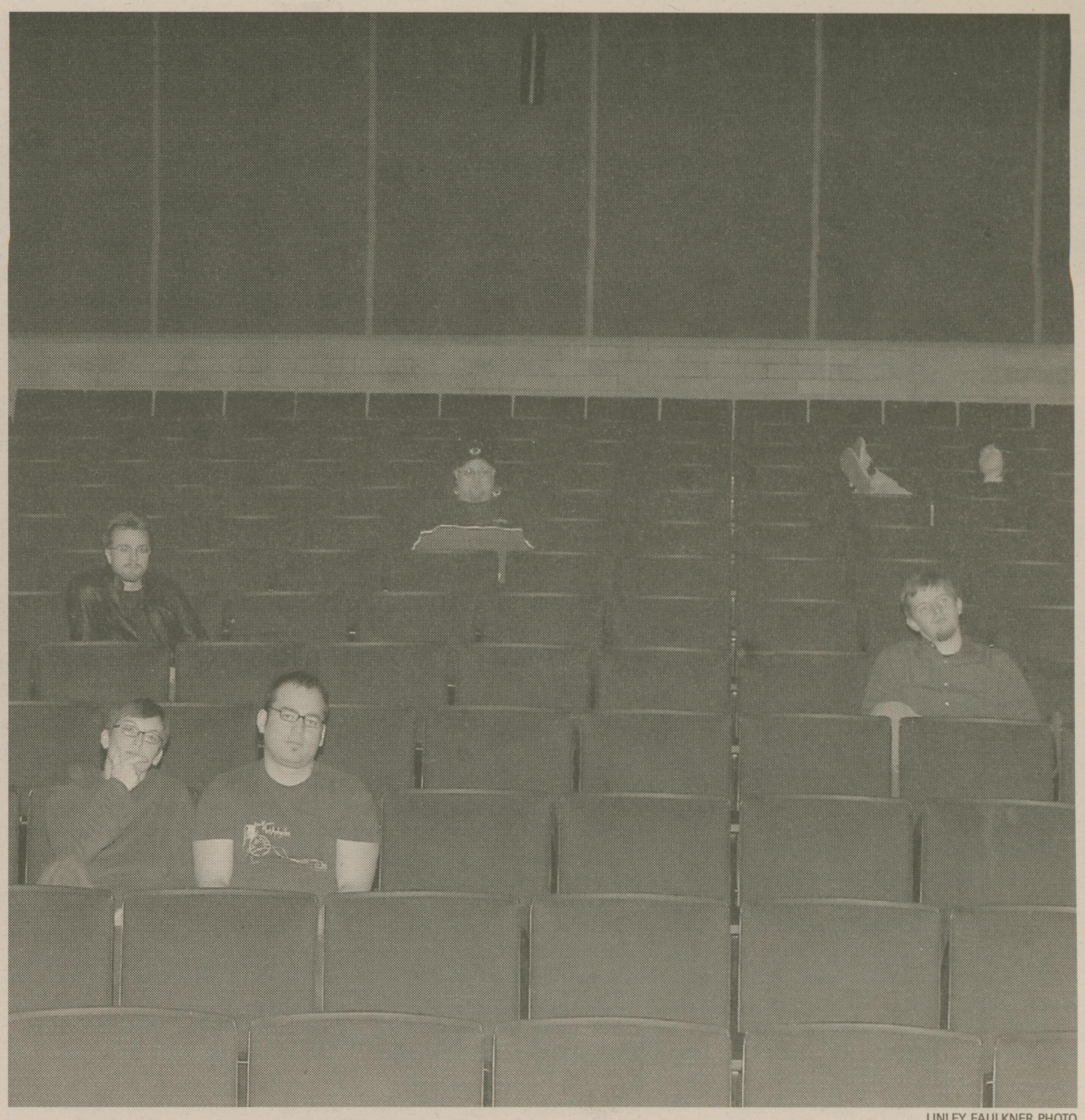

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Only a handful of students showed up to the UVSS's semi-annual general meeting Feb. 16 (as demonstrated in this re-creation of the event), resulting in the meeting's cancellation due to lack of quorum.

Chronic lack of quorum showcases student apathy

UVSS board members blame lack of 'pressing motions' and advertising for poor turnout

by Briony Smith

During the UVic Students' Society's semi-annual general meeting on Feb. 16, the sound of crickets chirping in Cinecenta was almost audible, as the annual meeting once again failed to reach quorum.

Quorum is the minimum number of people required to do business at the meeting. With just 16 attendees, the meeting—which had no special resolutions—was four short of the required 20. Special resolutions require one-sixth of one per cent of the student population—about 100 people.

"We called the meeting, had everything ready for opening the doors at 3:00 p.m. At 3:25 p.m., we took a trip around the SUB to try and round people up, but we couldn't make 20. Since there were no special resolutions or pressing motions, we cancelled the meeting," said UVSS chairperson Penny Beames.

At general meetings, which are held twice a year, UVSS board members give reports and go over financial statements. But attendance at these meetings tends to be poor unless special resolutions—defined as amendment of the UVSS bylaws or policy changes—are being discussed, said UVSS general manager Marne Jensen.

"Nothing motivates students like issues that are relevant to them," she said. Jensen cited the example of when the Nursing Student Union rounded up around 60 people to support their motion to become a Professional Development Union.

In the last 10 years, it has been the controversial issues that tend to bring the students out in droves. In 1995, students rallied to the debate over the return of fraternities to campus. The springs of 2000 and 2005 saw students up in arms over the UVSS constitution's pro-choice policy.

The meetings in 2002 and 2003 did not reach quorum, either. While the board was able to address the backlog of business at the fall 2004 meeting, turnout has been consistently spotty since then.

Jensen and Beames feel that, in addition to student apathy about UVSS business, the lack of up-to-date advertising might be a factor. Currently, they post an ad in the *Martlet* two weeks prior to the meeting, put up posters around campus, try to get word out via word of mouth, and offer incentives like free coffee or cookies—one year, they even had a free screening of Star Wars to encourage students to come out.

Starting in fall 2006, the UVSS will release news of upcoming general meeting's via e-mail. When asked whether this unauthorized e-mailing might anger the student population, Beames said since the meetings are part of the students' basic democratic rights as voting members of the UVSS, they have the students' "implied consent."

"It is, after all, their second-highest decision-making opportunity [after voting in the student elections]," she said.

Students can use the general meetings as an opportunity to communicate directly with their elected representatives by bringing up one-time directives, grievances or questions about directors' choices or future directions. Past examples include the *Martlet*'s request for a bigger grant in 1992, and debates over the last few years that resulted in the resolution to allow only fair trade coffee to be served on campus as of April 2004.

"While democracy is important," said Beames, "it's not exactly thrilling to spend an afternoon in Cinecenta discussing fiscal policy." Attendance at the Feb. 16 meeting might have been sparse due to the new weeklong reading break, said Jensen, which saw many students leaving late in the week before—right around when the meeting was held.

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UVic researchers highlight link between dog-ownership and exercise

Study finds those who keep canine friends walk almost twice as much as non-owners

by Spencer Kelly

While walking his own dog one morning, Shane Brown noticed that most people out exercising were with their dogs.

The physical education graduate student, along with professor Dr. Ryan Rhodes, applied for funding and mailed out 1,000 surveys around Victoria in 2004. The survey was completed by 177 men and 174 women between 20 and 80 years of age.

The results showed that dog owners walk almost twice as much as non-dog owners, with the latter walking 168 minutes on average and the former a full 300 minutes per week.

Brown admits the study cannot say whether dog ownership causes the increase in walking—it is possible that people who get dogs are in the habit of walking more to begin with.

To find the cause of the behaviour out for sure, Brown joked, one would have to steal people's dogs and survey them again to see if their behaviour changed.

Knowing this type of research isn't practical, Brown hopes other knock-off studies will clarify this link between dog-ownership and exercise.

Brown and Rhode's study made it into the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, and as a result the two have received worldwide attention from the media—including the *New York Times*—and the physical education community.

There have been five similar studies previously conducted, but their methods and results have varied. This study focused on urban primary caregivers, and was randomly sampled.

The study found equal results from both men and women, and for different types of dogs.

The theory of planned behavior was used as a psychological tool to explain the results: the researchers have hypothesized that it is dog owners' feelings of obligation to their pets that ensures they get out and exercise regularly.

What motivated the study was a concern about "rising obesity rates, premature deaths, and billions of dollars in [preventable] healthcare spending," Brown said. A lot of work done in the physical education community concerns the low exercise rates in Canada, and the usefulness of any factors that motivate people to do more physical activity, he explained.

Although dog-ownership is linked to an increase in activity, Brown does not support dog ownership as a weight-loss strategy. Owning a dog will only help you stay fit if you take your responsibility as a pet-owner seriously.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

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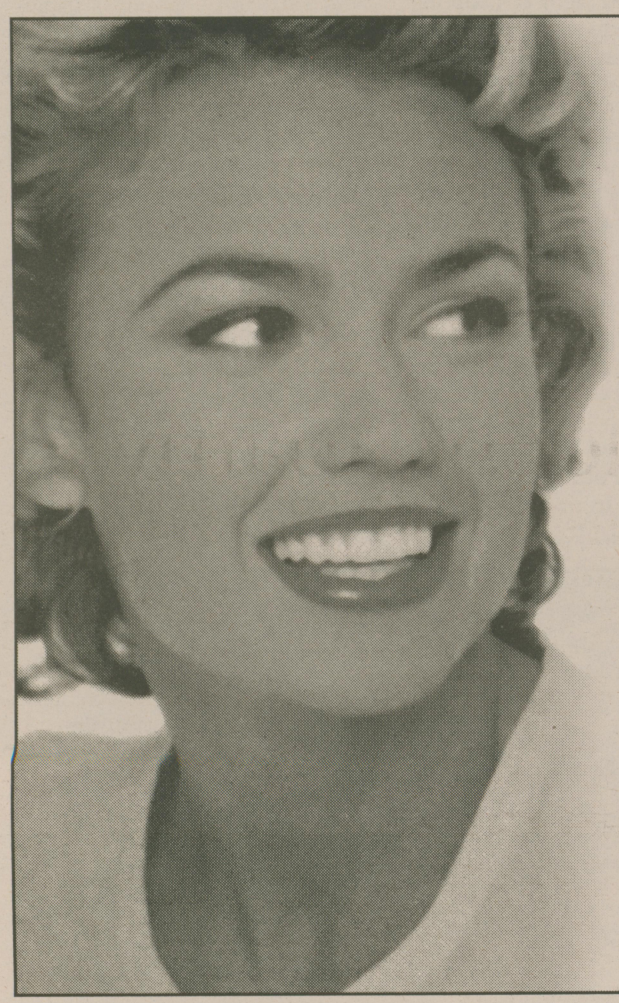

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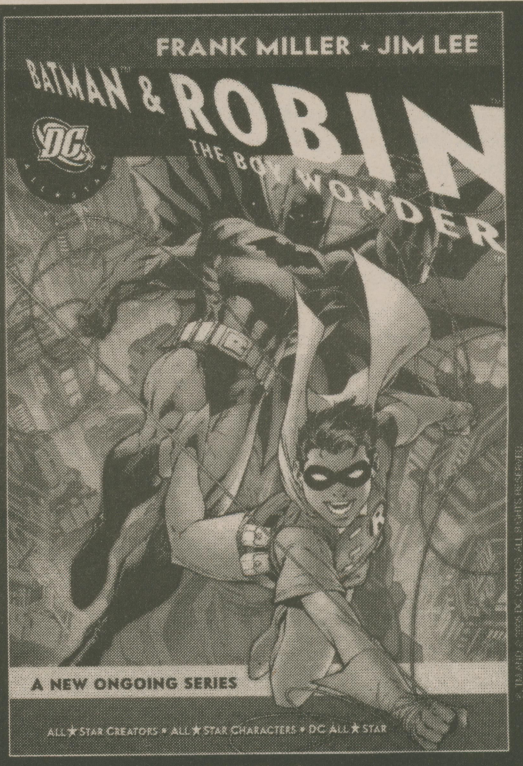

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African-born politician and movie star a separatist

by Suzi Dumitrescu and David Karp

PROVIDED PHOTO

Quebec MP Maka Kotto says that supporting the separatist movement is his way of standing up for the little guy.

Maka Kotto is Canada's first African-born member of Parliament. But there's a distinct lack of fanfare surrounding the Cameroonian-born politician, who represents the separatist Bloc Québécois.

"The English media ignores the Bloc," said Dr. Matt James, a UVic political scientist. "The Bloc's lack of interest in the rest of the country—as evidenced by the fact that it only runs candidates in Quebec—is an indifference that's repaid to it by the media from the rest of the country."

In an interview in French with the *Martlet*, Kotto suggested that some Canadians might be nervous of his views. "Too much light shed on an African sovereigntist might bother some people," he said.

Born in Douala, Cameroon, Kotto attended a Jesuit boarding school. He originally wanted to become a priest because he wanted to help those around him, but his teachers told him there were better ways to do good.

Kotto and his classmates took an active interest in protesting Cameroon's dictatorship at the time.

"We sometimes distributed pamphlets in the neighbourhoods to do our part in enlightening the citizens. One time, some of us were arrested, and I was imprisoned. So I didn't see myself living out my life there," said Kotto. "My father agreed with me, and that's why he worked his fingers to the bone to finance my trip to Europe, and my studies there."

Emmigrating to France, Kotto studied political science and law, despite wanting to be an artist. "[The law and political science] was to calm my father, because he didn't want me to become an artist," Kotto said with a laugh. Once he completed his degree, however, Kotto decided to pursue his dream.

"Once I finished my cinema and dramatic arts studies, after university, I chose to work as an artist. And my father didn't talk to me for two years."

Kotto joined the movie industry in 1984 and has starred in over 30 films. "He's a very powerful actor. He's very well-prepared when he comes in and he has a strong persona," said Lyse Lafontaine, producer of *Un Dimanche à Kigali* (A Sunday in Kigali). Kotto plays a Hutu politician in the film, which hits theatres April 14.

"He's well known [in Quebec] because he played in many films here," Lafontaine said. She added that Kotto's roles often take a political tone, perhaps making the real-life jump to politics natural for him.

In 2003, Kotto decided to put his acting career on the back burner and run for the Parti Québécois in the Quebec provincial election.

"It was a change of medium to get to the heart of the decision-making in order do my part to advance causes close to my heart," said Kotto. He didn't win, but went on to run for the Bloc in the 2004 federal election, beating out a Liberal incumbent to win the riding of St-Lambert, east of Montreal. Kotto retained his seat in January's election.

James said that candidates such as Kotto are important to the separatist movement.

"Being able to put forward candidates that aren't of white European background is really important in establishing [the Bloc's] credibility as a party," he said. "Where it needs to make inroads is precisely in the more urban, culturally diverse areas."

The Bloc Québécois has struggled to attract minority voters since the 1995 referendum, when then-premier Jacques Parizeau blamed the "yes" side's defeat on "money and the ethnic vote."

Those remarks didn't bother Kotto.

"They knew at the time there were people who would be in the 'no' camp no matter what," he said. "It's a truth, not a lie."

Prior to entering politics, Kotto was a member of the Liberal party, but joined the Bloc after losing confidence in Canadian federalism.

"After living for five years in Quebec, I understood that the federalism that showed signs of adapting to a real confederation was at an impasse. And in all this, Quebec paid the bill," said Kotto. "I am a humanist, and my first instinct is to be on the side of the oppressed, the scorned, and the humiliated. And the Liberal arrogance was quite eloquent when the time came to keep Quebec in its place—its small place."

When asked where he'll be in 20 years, Kotto laughed. "I'm still asking myself what I'm doing on Earth—why I exist. And this can make a person go crazy. But when we base our life on good causes, we find meaning in our lives. And this is what stops us from going crazy."

NEWS BRIEFS

International Women's Day, March 8, is an event celebrated by women's groups around the world, as well as the United Nations, and designated a national holiday in many countries. These are just a few of the events being celebrated in Victoria on and leading up to March 8 in recognition of women's historic struggles for equality, justice, peace and development.

March 4: International Women Speak for International Women's Day, 1–3 p.m., at 755 Pandora Ave.

An international dialogue of women sharing their experiences of conditions in other countries and how women are organizing from around the world. Sponsored by the Victoria Status of Women Action Group, in conjunction with the Immigrant and Refugee Centre. This event is for women only.

For info call 383-7322.

March 5: Benefit Brunch for Women and Girls in Afghanistan, 11 a.m., at Fairfield Community Place

Speaker Lauryn Oates, Regional Officer for Rights and Democracy, Afghanistan and Central Asia, with slides from her recent trip to Kandahar. Featuring Afghan crafts for sale, belly dancing and more. For info call 652-4865.

March 8: International Women's Day Celebration and Forum 2006, 6–9 p.m., at the Royal B.C. Museum in the Mungo Martin House

In a collaboration between the International Women's Rights Project, the Victoria Status of Women Group, and the Coalition for Community Women, this inclusive event will focus on the lived experiences and perspectives of women by engaging participants in dialogue with speakers and activists.

For info call 658-6712.

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Mock trial addresses potential health-care problems

by David Karp

DAVID KARP PHOTO

The idea for this mock trial was conceived when faculty at UVic's Centre on Ageing decided to "present things in a new way" to students.

Ethel Beresford, 87, fell out of bed and broke her hip at a Victoria nursing home.

Staff at the home gave her some Tylenol before sending her to bed. When she had trouble breathing that night, the nursing home sent Beresford to the hospital. Doctors discovered she had fractured her hip and had a low blood sugar level. Beresford entered a coma and died the next morning.

Luckily, Beresford's death never really happened. In fact, the elderly woman doesn't even exist. Her fictional situation was presented at a mock trial put on by UVic and the Vancouver Island Health Authority Feb. 14. The trial was a collaborative effort by the faculties of nursing, law and psychology, along with staff from the university's Centre on Aging and the local health authority.

The purpose of the trial was to give health-care workers and students the opportunity to see what a negligence trial might look like. It also gave law students the chance to practice their courtroom skills.

"What would happen if things went wrong?" asked Kerry Baisley, a manager with the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC. His organization helps protect the legal rights of children, deceased people, and adults with decision-making difficulties. Baisley said the mock trial prepared health-care workers to address the question by looking at what happens in negligence suits and looking for ways to prevent tragedies like Beresford's from occurring.

"The University of Victoria's Centre on Aging said, 'What are we going to do to present things in a new way?'" said Baisley, wadding that this was the first event of its kind that he knew of.

Over 60 people, including only 10 men, packed the auditorium at Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health, the makeshift courtroom for the trial. Two televisions inside the courtroom captured the action, which while not always dramatic had its tense moments.

"Isn't it true that only an incompetent nurse . . . " began the Crown lawyer before being interrupted with "Objection, your Honour! Badgering the witness."

There were also laughter and tears. At one point, one of the witnesses, "Ms. Nicholl," broke down in artificial tears from a harsh line of questioning. She recovered quickly after the court clerk poured her a glass of water.

One question in particular generated laughter from the room of health professionals. "Ms. Nicholl, do you seriously believe you're the only nurse in Canada with a heavy workload?" asked the Crown lawyer before withdrawing the question.

"If you were faced with similar circumstances, would you accept this lower standard of care for your loved ones or yourself?" asked the Crown lawyer in her closing statement.

"We don't know the cause of death. She was 87 years old," countered the defence lawyer in her closing statement.

But it was students and staff who got the final say, making their own judgments about who was negligent and who wasn't.

"The idea was to educate people at a whole bunch of different levels," said Dr. Holly Tuokko, a professor with UVic's psychology department and Centre on Aging. Tuokko is conducting research on the effect of this innovative style of learning.

"There were a lot of meetings that went into this," she said. "We'll want to do more of this in the future."

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CUPE On the front line

From rebellion to the runways

by Deena Kinarthy

When Avril Lavigne, Canadian punk rock star and poster girl for today's youth punk scene ditches her trademark rebel image to join the Chanel haute couture runway show this winter, one has to ask: has she sold out, or simply grown up?

And what does "selling out" really mean? According to many fashion critics today, punk is just a relic of the past. Today we have what is called pop-punk or chic-punk. The Lavigne crowd (those of us born between '83 and '89) base their style on another sub-punk movement known as emo-punk or California skater-punk. Essentially, it's all about the image and the music.

Many runway fashion designers in the industry today have picked up on the "rebellious" fashion, taking the edgier clothing from the streets or working class and turning them into high fashion.

In turn, clothing that was intended to be different, rebellious or alternative appears as trendy or popular items in the shopping malls and department stores across Canada and the United States. The *Martlet* interviewed several outlets in town that sell specific punk-inspired fashion and asked the salespeople what they thought of this trend.

Stitches at the Bay Centre, for example, sells some items that are punk-inspired, such as rhinestone belts, T-shirts with skulls on them and ripped jeans. They even have a T-shirt on their rack that says "punk I am".

Other more independent stores, such as Backstage, display more hardcore items such as combat boots, jewellrey for facial piercings, and spiked leather wristbands and collars.

However, all the storeowners and employees we interviewed agreed that punk is basically still about individuality and self-expression.

"For punks it has always been a visual statement. You want the world to look at you and realize you are different, you are choosing to live your life a different way," said Jen Storey, manager of Backstage on Broad Street in downtown Victoria.

"Everyone is just so overwhelmed and inundated with incoming media and images, messages and movies and posters and everything. It is kind of weird that you have taken that to the point where you are almost like a walking TV or billboard yourself," said Storey. "Everyone walks around presenting something to another person. People put on a certain image."

She suggested that the media might be overloading our culture, so that clothing becomes a way of distinguishing ourselves from the urban masses.

Her store sells key punk items such as patches, studded belts (for only $80!) and the infamous black hoodie, with images of bands on the front. Bands such as Nirvana, Bad Religion, and KISS stand on the same shelf as The Killers and Sum 41.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Avril Lavigne, queen of the pop-punk crowd.

Some of the original punksters from the '70s and '80s (the Sex Pistols generation) think the punk movement has lost some of its edge. Punk as a fashion originated in England where class differences are much more pointed and political. It started with the music and grew into an entire counterculture.

When asked about what our youth is fighting for today, first-year student Kim Dillon mused, "Do we even have anything we are fighting for? Come on, it's Canada."

Owner of Old Nick's on Johnson Steet, Jesus Bonehead, said, "The original punk came out of England and was angrier and more defiant. It was political in Europe, but in Canada it is a fashion statement. Canadians have it easy."

Bonehead is a member of the 25-year-old punk band Day Glo Abortions, and lived in England in the '70s. "The best way to fight society is to go with it . . . and fight from within," he added as he looked around the store.

Suzanne MacDonald, owner of Sideshow, a store that makes local punk rock performers and local artists' outfits with the customer's creative input, as well as custom-made items, shared some insights into the origin of the plaid bondage pants, a key punk fashion identifier.

She said these pants came from Scots who rebelled against the English, who would not let them wear their kilts, a cultural fabric of the Scottish working class.

Compared to the hippies, this hardcore look is thought to be an affirmation of existence rather than a politically based reaction against society. We do not see groups of punks with picket signs protesting outside the Legislature with their issues, we see them in the street, in the shopping mall and at university.

Today there are dozens of rebellious "looks," and the real issue is maintaining true individuality because if everyone joins the counterculture, it becomes the culture.

When there are as many tribes to belong to, clothing gets changed very rapidly from season to season, and many clothes get destroyed and wasted. In bestseller *The Rebel Sell*, authors Joseph Heath and Andrew Potter make plain, with biting clarity and concrete examples, how every era has had a counterculture that tried to fight "the system." But our system is the fight. Rebellion is an old concept, fashionable in today's capitalist society because it is just another choice in a sea of choices for consumers.

"It is not just a fashion, it is a lifestyle," said Suzanne. She refers to designers Vivienne Westwood and Betsy Johnson with respect. Johnson is known for her edgy designer fashions—the "safety-pin chic" look is one of the highlighted features of her fall 2006 runway show in New York. She is also a regular guest designer on America's Next Top Model.

Maybe Avril should have gone with her on the runway.

ADVOCACY COLUMN | ACCESS UVIC!

Olympic gold

by Rose Mariana Robb

"Your mayor's in a wheelchair!" The voice was cracking with excitement. It was the end of the Olympic Games and Sabine Scheurholz-Lehr (from UVic's office of international affairs) was talking to friends in Germany.

Calling to congratulate them on Germany's success in the Winter Games, she found it wasn't the record-breaking 29 medals won by their athletes that had the Germans breathless. It was Mayor Sam Sullivan accepting the Olympic flag for Vancouver.

The German friends were not disabled (neither is Sabine) or interested in disability issues. They were happy their athletes had done well, but it was the door flung open for people with disabilities that was sensational. The friends were excited and congratulatory. A professor (who is Italian herself) tells me that for Italians, Mayor Sullivan's participation was a miracle. If you are in a wheelchair in Italy, your role in the Olympic Games or anything else, including politics, is clear cut and simple. You stay home.

Yet the Italians, too, were cheering just that little bit louder to see a person with a disability in a position of leadership and responsibility. It is this reservoir of goodwill in the hearts of ordinary people that will make the difference as disabled people knock on more and more doors at university, in society, and around the world.

Scott Antaya is a student leader with a disability who hopes to serve on the Board of the University of Victoria Student Society. He is running for director of services in the UVSS elections, and he is the only candidate who mentions disability—a reminder that our colleagues and friends may cheer us on, but our issues won't be on the agenda unless we put them there ourselves.

With regard to support for students with disabilities and advocacy groups, here is where this year's candidates stand: Nothing in the platform of current chair, Penny Beames, refers to support for disabled students or any other constituency group. Chadi Akouri, also running for chair, promises to improve relations with advocacy groups and also makes a strong commitment to democratic process and equality. Mike Waters points out that the advocacy groups provide important services to students and promises to strengthen the groups and make it easier for them to do their work.

Jeremy Peters, running for director of academics, states a commitment to strengthening the role of advocacy groups. Scott Antaya, as director of services, promises to work with the university to integrate the full range of ability/disability into the planning and design of all facilities and services.

Only five director-at-large candidates refer to advocacy groups: Andrew Bateman supports autonomy for campus constituency groups, and Rakhi Bhatnagar and Alex Chang both say they want to strengthen or support the role of advocacy groups. Joe Kruger says he will liaise with constituency groups and the Native Student Union, and Kienan Hamm stresses the need to accept diversity and work in respectful alliances with all representative organizations within the UVSS.

Remember to vote for the candidates of your choice!

Next week, Access UVic will also be celebrating the anniversary of our successful referendum. We'll be serving cake to students and providing them with a Referendum Report outlining our first year. Our introduction to sign language series begins next week and will run every Wednesday in March, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Access UVic office.

Rose Mariana Robb is the Director of Access UVic, the disability advocacy centre located in the SUB, B102. Phone 472-4389.

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Algonquin transman explores being two-spirited through film

by Briony Smith

Screened at UVic on February 8 and 9, Algonquin filmmaker and transman/two-spirit Spy Dénommé-Welch's documentary short *The Making of a Hybrid Male* was rough, raw and true.

Most importantly, it is sure to inspire discourse about what it means to be trans and two-spirited, courtesy of Dénommé-Welch's deeply personal journey. *Hybrid Male*, which Dénommé-Welch has been screening at universities across the country, documents his visit to his grandparents in the Timiskaming area in the wilds of northeastern Ontario. He went there to tell them—before his hormone therapy changed him too significantly—about his transition from female to male.

Dénommé-Welch, 27, is pursuing his master's in interdisciplinary studies at York University.

He was invited by the UVic department of equity and human rights to screen the film. He told the audience at the second screening that he felt filming this fateful journey could defuse the situation somewhat.

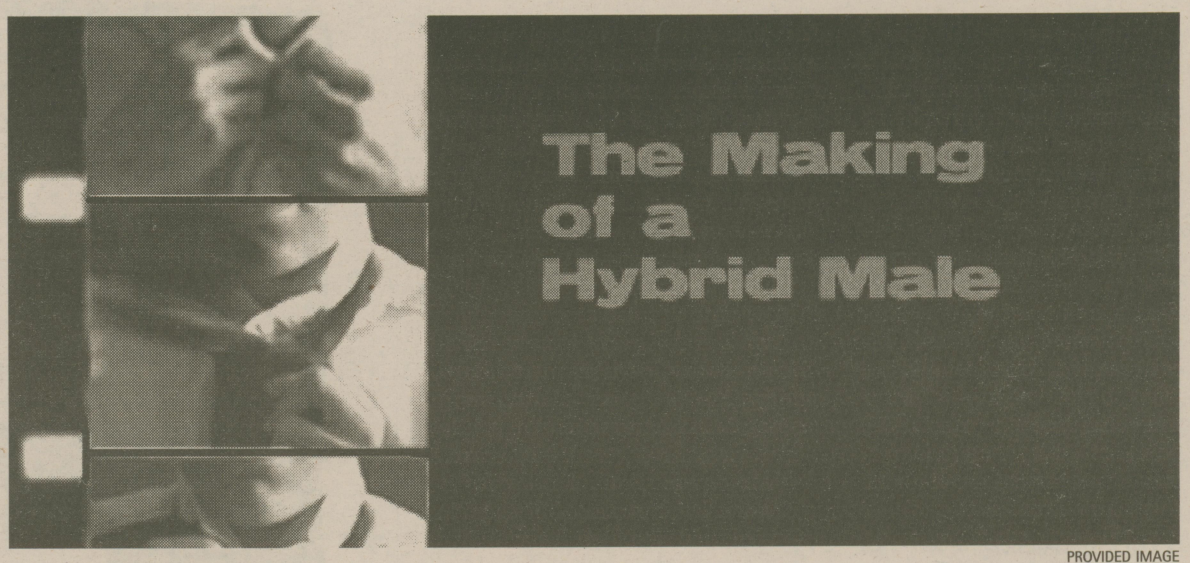
"By confronting the worst fears you ever had, by clacking them together, it's empowering. The world is wide open."

He uses humour in the film to break the ice on this tricky topic with lines like, "Trannies may be trendy in the media these days, but these trends take a long time to reach northeastern Ontario." The honest feel of the documentary and its dialogue might stem from the accessibility that Dénommé-Welch found that film could bring to the subject matter.

The medium of film was also appealing due to its basis in the oral traditions of storytelling, a key practice in his Algonquin community.

The power of words comes into play in an impressive scene that lays bare the common questions lobbed at trans folks. It shows Dénommé-Welch binding his breasts while layer upon layer of questions pepper the viewer in an uncomfortable barrage.

They ring true, from the outright ugly end of the spectrum ("Are you a boy or a girl?" "Are you mentally ill?" "How do you have sex?" "Are you sure you're not depressed?" "Won't you let your family down?") to the questions trans people often have to weather from people who "mean well" or fancy themselves open-minded ("Are you a transvestite?" "Do the hormones make you extra-horny?" "Will you keep your vagina?").



PROVIDED IMAGE

Although he said that his film only portrays his particular story, his "own path," the startling familiarity of these questions and the resonance of the film speaks to *Hybrid Male's* powerful ability to inspire viewers to reexamine their own so-called tolerance. Dénommé-Welch hopes that the film, which he wants to take on the queer film festival circuit, will take some of the issues at hand off his shoulders and onto the viewers.

This is helped along by his startling choice of an ending—considering that it's about coming out as a two-spirit person to his family, it is somewhat of a shock when the film doesn't reveal what his family's reaction actually was.

"Would that make a difference?" he asked. "Like gender, nothing is set in stone."

AURAL AFFAIRS

by Jake Sandberg

Does your partner listen to you? Hold you when you are sad or take care of you when you are sick? Respect your friends and family? Do they just plain treat you the way you should be treated: with love?

If you're unhappy with your love life, it might be time to rethink those relationship goals. Perhaps what you need is a caring and sensitive partner who treats you like number one, because to them, you are number one. Perhaps what you need is someone who is portrayed by TV as a geek, but let's face it, is actually pretty amazing.

In today's equality-based society the number of these in-touch-with-their-feelings guys are growing. Who needs testosterone in the 21st century anyway? Last time I checked the necessity for bow-hunting skills was on the decline.

Everyone has had their crush on one of these TV dweebs at some point in their life. The first I specifically remember was from the ever-so-popular *Breaker High*—Sean Hanlon (Ryan Gosling). What's there not to like? He's kind, romantic, caring, and cute but not drop-dead gorgeous.

This fad has only grown in the last few years. Take Seth Cohen (Adam Brody) from *The OC*: he gets nervous easily and makes terribly lame jokes but comes up with brilliant plans to wow his Summer every time.

For the more intellectual we have Greg Sanders (Eric Szmanda) from *CSI*. Crazy hair—that ironically looks pretty hot—and reject social skills aside, he too is quite charming and even has a successful career as a lab tech!

But these geeks don't have to be TV stereotypes and you don't have to live in a sub-par relationship. If it's been three days and your Friday night hookup still hasn't called, you're tired of dating the same shallow trash, or your longtime partner forgot your anniversary again, maybe it's time for change.

Well then, what should you look for? First off, they should be well mannered, polite and friendly. This is obvious, but it might not be at the bar. Actually the bar isn't even a good place to find them—seek out the library, supermarkets, friend's cousins, and lab partners. You need to have a friendly chat with them on neutral grounds.

Secondly, their friends should share the same qualities. Don't be fooled by a charming prospective. If the friends of the potential all share the same terrible qualities then chances are good you're being played.

Lastly, pay attention to the style of stories they have. Stories starting with "My buddies and I got really drunk and smashed some shit" or other such similar themes should be warning signs. The degree to which your partner will shower you with love and their ability to be an asshole is always inversely proportional.

A poor relation erodes the soul and emotional scars don't heal quickly. So find someone who makes you feel funny, happy, cared for, and does it not because they want you but because they love you. They don't really have to be a geek—just don't doom yourself to failure with a jerk.

Next week: "There's Nothing Complex about that Simplex"

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VIPIRG

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) is a student run non-profit organisation dedicated to research, education, and action on emerging social and environmental issues.

Achievements: Our resource library loans thousands of items to students every year. Our Research Internship Program allows students to complete research for community groups and get course credit. We offer a series of popular workshops on 'Researching for CHANGE'. Recent VIPIRG projects include promoting urban agriculture, fair trade, immigrant and refugee rights, and solidarity with indigenous peoples, as well as providing a prominent voice against cuts to Income Assistance in BC and participating in the Economic Security Project.

Refunds: Every UVic student is a member of VIPIRG and pays a membership due through their student fees. Undergrads pay $3 per full-time semester or $1.50 per part-time semester. Grad students pay $2 per semester. This fee is refundable by cheque to students during a refund period each semester.

The **Spring 2006 semester refund period** will be held **Thursday, March 9th through Wednesday, March 22, 2006.** Refund forms can be picked up at the VIPIRG offices in SUB b120-122. Info: 721.8629 or vipirg@vipirg.ca. Forms will be posted outside the office for the convenience of students coming outside office hours.

Editorial

Get out there and vote! (Or: Eight things you didn't know about the UVSS)

The days are getting longer and the trees are beginning to bloom, which can only mean one thing: it's time for the students' society's annual election!

Why should I care, you ask. I've never voted before (you're not alone—only 16.2 per cent of students voted in last year's election, up from 13 per cent the year before) why start now? What has the UVSS ever done for me?

It's easy to brush off student politics as unimportant and irrelevant, but the UVSS is the largest student group on campus—with the budget to match.

Here we present the top eight reasons to get out and vote this time around.

#1. Student fees are not donations
As a full-time undergraduate student, you pay $65.02 each semester in student fees, or $130 per year. Unless you're in the habit of making cash donations to random groups, it makes sense to know where that money is going and how it's going to be spent. Some goes to advocacy groups, clubs and course unions, and other student groups.

But each semester 19 of your precious hard-earned dollars goes to "society operations," $13 goes towards running the Student Union Building, and $7.32 floats into the pockets of the Canadian Federation of Students.

#2. Show me the money
The UVSS collected nearly $1.7 million in student fees this year, and is predicting a surplus of $411,560 for the 2005–06 fiscal year. Not a big deal? In 2000–01, $30,000 disappeared due to "mismanagement" by a no-longer-employed SUB general manager. The UVSS had nearly $1,000,000 in debts, though we're told they're now recovering nicely. Bottom line? They have a lot of money to take care of.

#3. They get paid to do this stuff
No, really, it's true! The four executive directors of the UVSS get paid for 37.5 hours a week at over $12 per hour. All told, their wages and expenses run over $110,000 a year.

#4. In and out and you're done
Voting is one of the easiest ways to have your say about the UVSS. All you need is five minutes at one of the many polling stations on campus and your student card.

It's a whole lot less commitment than going to meetings. (Which by the way are pretty important as well, but tend to get even less participation than elections—only 16 people showed up at the semi-annual general meeting a few weeks ago.)

#5. SUB sub-par?
Don't like how things are run in the SUB? Hate waiting 10 minutes for a smoothie at the Health Food Bar? Want cheaper pizza? Think Vertigo should be used for something besides a giant lunchroom? Guess who gets to make those decisions? You got it—the UVSS.

#6. Your vote really does count
Only four votes separated last year's two chairperson candidates. Which means if you and four friends had voted, things would be much different now. Think about it: you could change the course of history (or something like that). Point is, you'll probably never vote in any other election that runs that close.

#7. Students aren't apathetic, damn it!
Disregard what the old folks (grad students) say about youth voter turnout—it's actually been inching up. And studies show that we vote when there are important issues on the line (like at last year's UVSS SAGM, when the debated centred around abortion and the UVSS's pro-choice stance). And really, what's more important than how other people are spending your money?

#8. There's going to be beer
And music. Check out the beer garden and DJs outside the SUB on March 9. But maybe consider casting your vote first . . . drinking and voting isn't always a good idea.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

edit@martlet.ca

THUMBS DOWN | THUMBS DOWN

Thumbs Down
To finding a dead cat infected with avian flu in Germany. I see what's going on: Birds are enacting some sort of suicide attack on the felines that have been after them for years. You better check your food chain, cat.

Thumbs Down
To Michael Fortier being appointed to the Senate. Stephen Harper's campaign called for an elected Senate. Has Harper already started to go back on his promises? And here we thought things were going to be different . . .

EDITORIAL CARTOON | VOTING IS IMPORTANT FOR MANY REASONS

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Raising hell

Shame on the *Martlet* for not following the lead of its PEI counterpart the Cadre and instead refusing to publish the infamous "Muhammad Cartoons."

The professed motivation for censorship—"tolerance"—is a false one. Googling what happened in Tiananmen Square is undoubtedly offensive to the fundamental beliefs of quite a few totalitarians, yet the *Martlet* had no problem (rightly) condemning Google for its own voluntary censorship.

Cinecenta had no problem showing *Jesus Christ, Vampire Hunter,* despite the fact that this undoubtedly offended some Christians. Should I raise hell each time I dislike something you publish, especially when it offends my fundamental beliefs? Will you burn all outstanding copies of an "offending" publication, as those at the *Cadre* were forced to do?

Freedom of speech is useless and irrelevant if it cannot protect those things which provoke and offend. Otherwise, we might as well start burning the Voltaire, the Darwin, the Nietzsche, and—what the heck—the J.K. Rowling.

-Jarrett Plonka

Thanks, UVSS

As a student on the more technical side of the campus, I normally feel that my views are poorly represented by the more left-minded people typically present in the UVSS. The Feb. 9 article "Access Denied" surprised me in a good way.

Thank you, UVSS, for not letting people squander the student fees I grudgingly pay out of my own pocket.

-Cyrus Lim

Access not at anyone's throat

I've been the Workstudy student for Access UVic and know what valuable work they do. I have also attended several Access UVic events including those at the IQ Bistro.

As a UVSS member, I object to the way the article ("Access Denied, *Martlet* Feb. 9) suggests that "the UVSS" is against Access UVic, as though all students disapprove of them, or would reject the idea that Access UVic holds occasional dinners as organizational meetings or social events. Additionally, other constituency groups and clubs use their funding for dinners. Why the attack on the students with disabilities?

This expression "at each others throats" also may give readers of the *Martlet* the mistaken idea that Access UVic is attacking the UVSS. The attack is all one way. Access is a small group. Access is not at anybody's throat and wouldn't want to be.

I voted to donate a dollar of my fees to this group and I don't like the way Penny Beames and Shamus Reid are treating them. Reid is trying to make out as if the students with disabilities have done something wrong and they haven't. I believe he is the one who did something wrong and he should apologize.

-Erica Weiss

UVSS defence

In its "Access Denied" (Feb. 9) article the *Martlet* missed an important fact about the root of the dispute between the Board and Access UVic. Namely, that this was never about misspending of student funds by Access UVic. It is about misspending of student funds by one individual who is not a member of the Students' Society, but who has represented herself as the director of Access UVic.

It was her name on the receipts showing expenditures on liquor and numerous IQ Bistro meals, yet she has never been a signing authority of Access UVic. Many of these expenditures were not for social events open to all members, but for routine meetings held at IQ Bistro.

Furthermore, liquor and frequent restaurant meals on our members' dime are only one aspect of the suspect expenditures. This individual was also reimbursed by the Students' Society for furniture that was purchased but never appeared in the Access office. She has given us two different reasons for this, neither satisfactory, and now says she has forgotten what happened to the furniture.

It is the duty of the Board, as the recipient of funds entrusted to the UVSS in good faith by its members, to ensure due diligence is paramount in spending those funds. This individual has refused to provide a satisfactory explanation, and has chosen instead to initiate a dispute with the Board.

It is very unfortunate that some members of Access UVic have been caught in the middle by this dispute, but steps are being taken by the Board toward resolution.

-Shamus Reid,
UVSS director of finance

Darwin Day clarification

First, while Ms. Webb was entirely correct in referring to me as an atheist ("Celebrating Darwin's 197th birthday," *Martlet,* Feb. 16), I hope that readers do not mistakenly form the impression that atheism formed the basis of our Darwin Day celebrations.

Some of us who contributed to Darwin Day believe in God, and some do not. The implications of Darwin's contributions provide insights to scientifically literate people of all religions, as well as to people of no religion.

While we had some light-hearted fun making up interesting Darwinesque twists on familiar celebratory rituals, I should emphasize that these were not intended as a mockery of the Christmas themes on which they were based (and, happily, no religious people with whom we spoke took them that way). Pains were taken to celebrate Darwin's life in a way that was inclusive and tasteful.

Second, while I am very flattered to be referred to as a philosophy professor, I am actually just a lowly PhD student who has been invited by the philosophy department to teach a few courses as a sessional from time to time.

While nothing in the article contradicted these actual facts, I thought it would be good to make all this clear in case some readers might feel that a specifically atheist holiday had been endorsed by the Philosophy Students' Union.

-Justin Kalef

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Commit more crimes, don't do the time

Concurrent sentencing is not adequate punishment

by David Karp

Hurry—Canada's courts are having a sale on crime. Now when you pay for one, you can get a dozen free. But this may be a limited time offer, so act now!

This blowout is made possible by concurrent sentencing, which allows criminals to serve time for multiple crimes all at once, instead of serving time for one illegal act after the other. The Criminal Code states that all sentences are concurrent unless otherwise specified by a judge. This means that criminals who commit one crime could be in jail for the same amount of time as criminals who commit that same crime a dozen times. Apparently we should teach our kids that there is no difference between 12 and one.

Imagine if this happened in a hockey game: Two hockey players fight and each of them get five minutes for fighting. But, one player goes right to the penalty box while the other goes and spears one opponent, high-sticks another and trips a third opponent before going to the penalty box. If hockey used concurrent sentencing, each player would serve five minutes. But they don't. The player who fought, speared, high-sticked and tripped would serve 14 minutes. Which is more equitable?

People who believe that if you do the crime you should serve the time would say concurrent sentencing is not the fair route. Criminals are sentenced for their most heinous offence, but don't have to do any extra time for extra crimes. Try explaining the logic behind this to the victims.

For others who believe in a more correctional role for our justice system, concurrent sentencing is still troubling. Clearly, someone who commits one crime needs less correction than someone who has committed multiple offences. Naturally, they will need longer sentences to change their ways.

But think about the situation from a criminal's point of view. If they've committed one crime, and they think they'll get a concurrent sentence, then what's to stop them from committing more illegal acts? Once they've robbed one store or stabbed one person, they could potentially rob more stores and stab more people and never have to spend an extra day in jail. This is a seriously harmful message—once one crime has been committed, there may not be any consequences for other crimes. What happened to taking responsibility for our own actions—all our own actions?

If we want to stop crime, we have to make sure that people understand the consequences of their actions. We have to make sure that we keep people who have committed multiple offences off the streets longer than people who have offended once. We have to make sure that criminals are given adequate time to change in the corrections system. There needs to be a change.

Hopefully we will see the end of concurrent sentencing soon. Part of the Conservative Party's platform is to eliminate concurrent sentencing for violent crimes, which is a step in the right direction. The question is whether the rest of Parliament will be ready to put an end to this sale on crime.

Outside BC, nuclear power is a hot topic

Waste storage and nuclear proliferation are an aspect of energy considerations

by Tim Lindsay

Last week the U.S. President again pledged to throw money toward a new fleet of nuclear power plants. China wants to quadruple its nuclear power capacity by 2020. The political elite in Britain and other formerly "nuclear-wary" countries now say the controversial energy source needs to be seriously considered in light of rising energy demands, Kyoto Protocol objectives and the desire to reduce reliance on foreign energy imports.

Nuclear power already provides over 15 per cent of global electricity via about 440 power plants in over 30 countries. In Canada, it supplies a big chunk of Ontario's electricity plus a bit in Quebec and New Brunswick.

So the debate in Canada has been centred in Ontario so far—though watch for proposals for nuclear-powered oil sands extraction in Alberta.

Arguably all Canadians, even us here in B.C., should be putting some thought into the future of nuclear power in Canada.

In December 2005, the Ontario Power Authority released a report warning of an energy shortage if the Ontario government makes good on its promise to phase out coal without refurbishing its nuclear reactors.

This echoes a 2004 report by John Manley and others.

The position of Energy Probe, an environmental group that happens to strongly oppose nuclear power, is indicative of the challenge. Environmental groups hate coal. Yet to avoid the need for nuclear power, Energy Probe has come out strongly against phasing out coal in Ontario on the grounds that the coal plants in Ontario are among the cleanest in North America.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for nuclear power is how to manage its radioactive waste for thousands of years.

Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) recently released a proposal for dealing with Canada's nuclear waste. The method has a fancy name, but essentially it recommends keeping the waste at the power station, waiting many decades (to take advantage of new research) and then eventually burying it in "remote" First Nations-occupied lands in the Canadian Shield—with their approval and to their benefit (that's the hope).

For their part, the Assembly of First Nations, the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association and other groups have been criticizing the NWMO process from the beginning, calling for a wider debate on energy policy in Canada that includes the role of renewable energy, conservation and other ways of avoiding nuclear power altogether.

No country has yet implemented a long-term nuclear waste storage system. In the coming decades we might expect proposals for international nuclear waste sites (to avoid the hassle of selecting a site in over 30 countries) and major protests against the transportation of nuclear wastes, like those in Germany requiring over 10,000 police officers to control.

Melting glaciers in Canada's Arctic may even reveal a route for Europe-Japan nuclear shipments much less populated than the Panama Canal or South American perimeter.

Then there's the pesky nuclear proliferation issue—how to avoid lowering the technological barriers to acquiring nuclear weapons.

Nuclear power is fuelled with either plutonium or uranium. It is widely accepted that the plutonium used for nuclear electricity in countries like Japan could be made into bombs by a well-organized group with the right expertise. The low-enriched uranium used for most nuclear electricity in the world cannot be used for bombs unless it is further enriched.

So whoever controls the enrichment technology can make weapons.

Iran's desire to have enrichment technology is making the headlines these days, but they may be the first of many to come. With a vastly expanded nuclear industry, there would, in the long run, be incredible incentives to make enriching uranium cheaper and easier. Some analysts speculate that internationally controlled "nuclear parks" may be the only way to adequately control a vastly expanded uranium enrichment industry—and even that might not work.

So should Canada expand our nuclear power industry or stick with coal? It kinda makes you wonder if there is a third way.

Two-tiered health care already exists

Alternative medicine should be available to all

by Rachel Anke Zimmermann

The question of the privatization of the Canadian health-care system is becoming a perennial political hot topic.

In all the uproar about long waitlists and soaring health costs, which have fuelled this debate for years, politicians as well as the media have neglected one simple fact: Canada already has a two-tiered health care system which benefits—gasp—the rich!

Unfortunately, this second layer of health care never makes the headlines.

It is called Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) and includes such disciplines as chiropractic, naturopathic and herbal medicine, homeopathy and acupuncture among others. Some like to refer to it as quackery.

Many Canadians, especially British Columbians, and those with money and education, love it.

In a survey published in March 2005, Statistics Canada reported that in 2003, 20 per cent of Canadians aged 12 or older, or about 5.4 million people, reported having used some type of alternative or complementary health care. This is up from 15 per cent in 2002.

Use of such services rose with income. Around one-quarter of individuals in the highest household income group had used alternative care in 2003, while only 13 per cent of those in the lowest income group had done so.

Use also rose with level of education. More than 25 per cent of those with a college or university education used alternative health care services in 2003 compared to 16 per cent of those with less education. These services were higher in the western provinces than the rest of Canada.

Studies conducted by the Fraser Institute in 1999 showed that almost three-quarters of respondents to a survey of 1,500 people had used some form of alternative health care in their lives and that in 1997 alone, out-of pocket spending for alternative health care in Canada amounted to more than $3.8 billion. Why then do politicians and the media seem to ignore this state of affairs?

Glenn Cassey, Executive Director of the British Columbia Naturopathic Association (BCNA) explained that this issue comes down to politics.

"In a nutshell it is this. The right wing says, yes, we already have a two-tiered health-care system, here are the stats; here is where everyone is spending their money. But the left wing doesn't see it that way. The left refuses to consider health care as anything but emergency medicine and palliative care, so that's their definition of medicine—that's ridiculous. The left is decades out of touch and out of sync with what the people are using. The patient has already decided it is two-tier and the statistics bear that out."

There are more than 200 naturopathic doctors practicing in B.C., with over 150,000 patient visits in 2004 alone.

"People who can afford it can come to a naturopath and get preventative medicine and natural health care," commented Dr. Penny Seth-Smith, a naturopathic doctor in Victoria. "Patient satisfaction with the results is very high. Our medicine is also cost-effective because it is preventive."

But it doesn't come cheap to the individual. At $100 to $200 per hour for a consultation with this highly effective, prevention-oriented, non-toxic service, naturopathic health care remains a luxury for the better off.

Maybe it is time for politicians to reassess health care policies with the actual facts in mind. Instead of supporting two-tiered conventional health care, making complementary and alternative health care available and affordable for everyone would be the fair and equitable thing to do.

Where the wind blows: cycling the Great Divide

by Bev Dunfield

The Magnum points at Paul's face where his middle finger is stopped on the bridge of his wide sunglasses, mid-adjustment.

"We don't wave one of those 'round here—we wave one of these." The voice slithers out of the shadowed interior of the battered pickup.

"Sorry, mate, didn't mean any harm." Paul quickly returns his hand to his mountain bike's handlebars.

The man in the truck cab grunts and passes the pistol back to the ancient skeleton in the passenger seat.

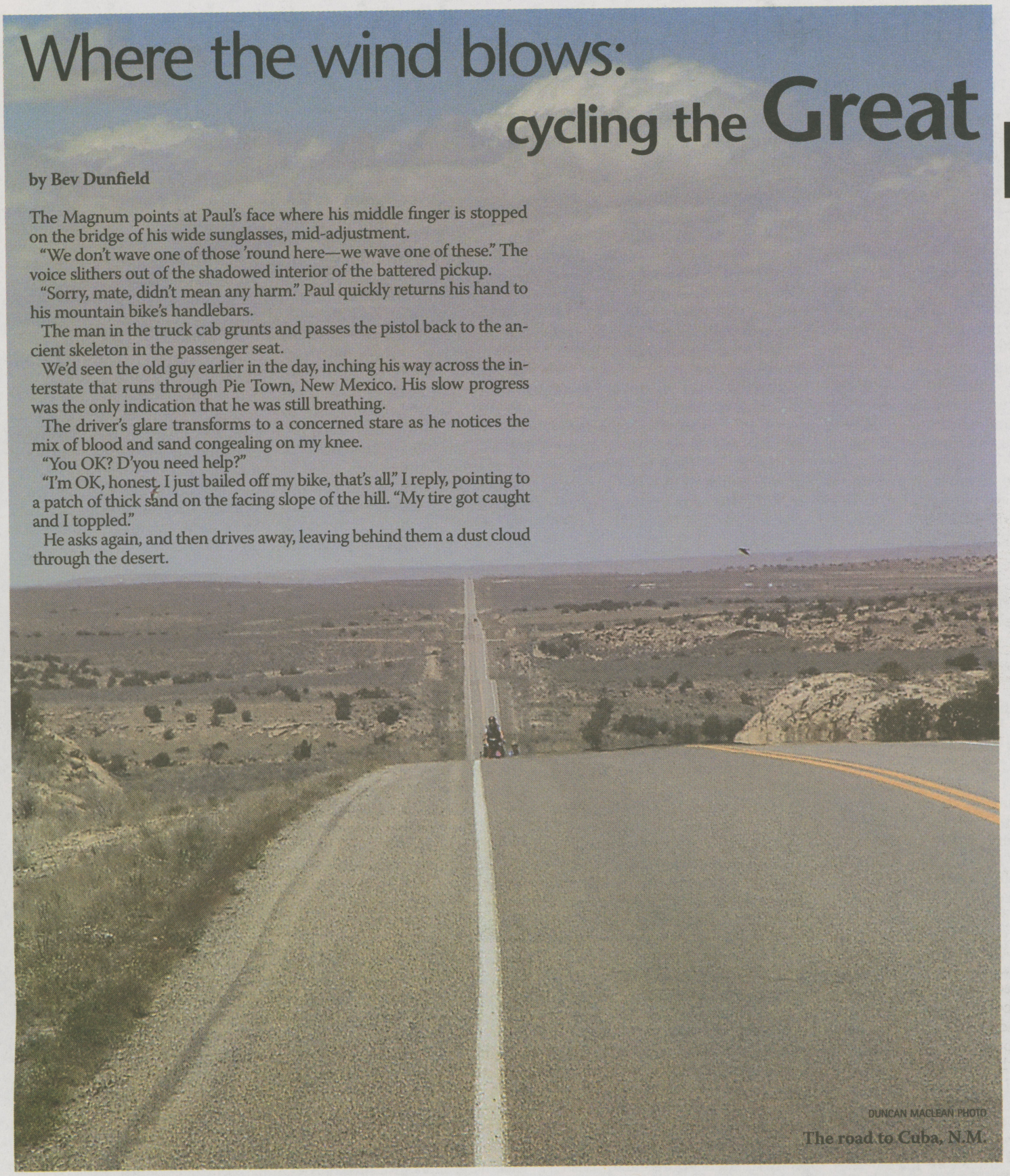
We'd seen the old guy earlier in the day, inching his way across the interstate that runs through Pie Town, New Mexico. His slow progress was the only indication that he was still breathing.

The driver's glare transforms to a concerned stare as he notices the mix of blood and sand congealing on my knee.

"You OK? D'you need help?"

"I'm OK, honest. I just bailed off my bike, that's all," I reply, pointing to a patch of thick sand on the facing slope of the hill. "My tire got caught and I toppled."

He asks again, and then drives away, leaving behind them a dust cloud through the desert.



DUNCAN MACLEAN PHOTO

The road to Cuba, N.M.

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Mapped by the Adventure Cycling Association www.adventurecycling.org

At 4,362 kilometres, the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route is the longest mapped off-pavement bike route in the world.

Runs north-south from Banff, Alta. to Antelope Wells, N.M. on the U.S./Mexico border, crossing through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Alberta and B.C.

Cyclists climb upwards of 600 metres each day, and often have multi-day stretches without food or water sources.

Highest pass: 6,360 metres at Indiana Pass, N.M.

The route crosses the Continental Divide 28 times

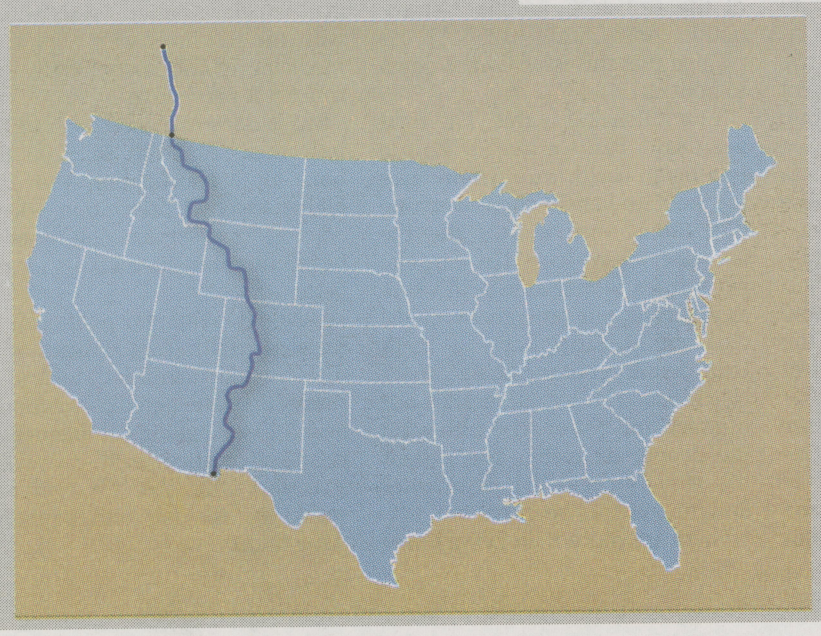
Average completion time: 62 days

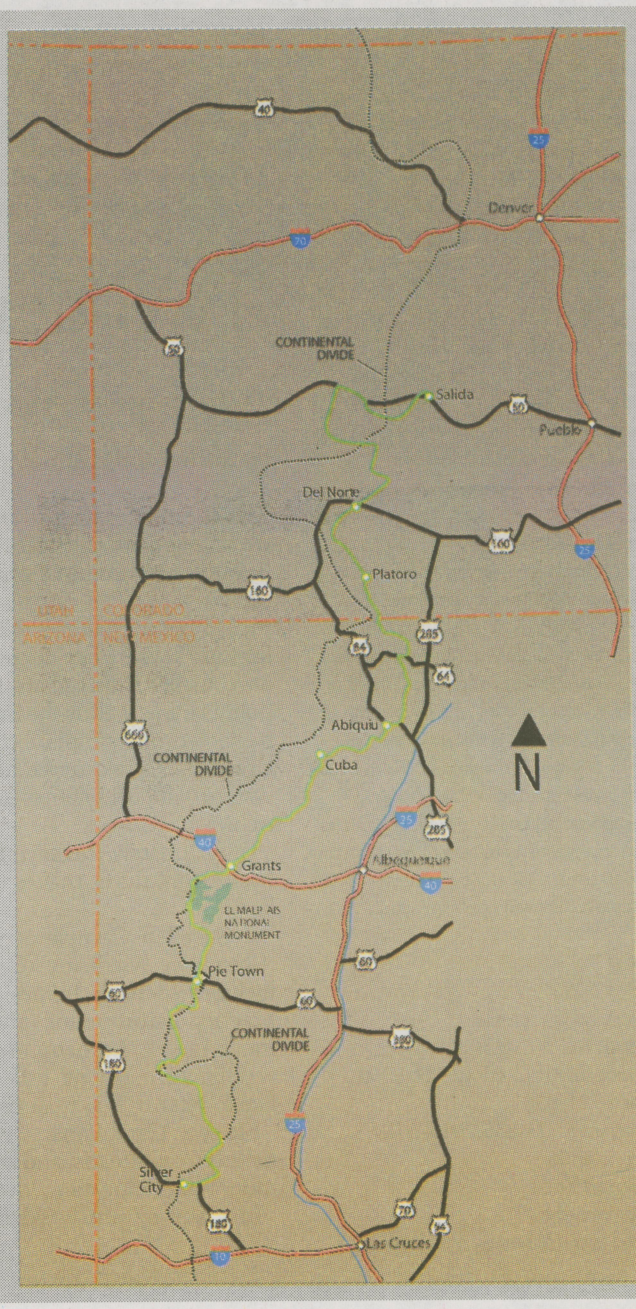
Fastest completion time: 18 days, 5 hours, by John Stamstad in August 1999

For the best weather, travel south to north in late spring and north to south in late summer

SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO TO SALIDA, COLORADO

Shortest day: 50 kilometres
Longest day: 176 kilometres
# of rest days: 5
# of flat tires: 3
# of broken pannier racks: 3
# of broken water bottles: 4
# of slices of pie eaten in Pie Town, N.M.: 20
# of Continental Divide crossings:10
# of nights spent at Hot Springs: 3
# of passports and tickets stolen: 6
# of nights spent at the homes of strangers: 5
# of bike shops: 2
# of days biking through snow: 3
# of granola bars: hundreds
Chance of eating couscous and tuna ever again: unlikely
Best tan lines: raccoon eyes and a tan that resembles pantyhose





Left:
The Great Divide trail crosses the United States of America and reaches into Canada. The northernmost city is Banff, Alta. The southermost is Antelope Wells, N.M.

Right:
The author cycled the section of the Great Divide trail from Silver City, N.M. to Salida, Colo., a distance of about 1,300 kilometres.

MAPS COURTESY ADVENTURE CYCLING ASSOCIATION

In this dry landscape, everything stirs up great billows of dust. The ochre grit coats everything, works its way inside our panniers, between our teeth, and into our hair. The smell of it blocks out all other scents until we don't realize we're breathing in the dull tang of desert earth. Even our tans rinse off with water.

It doesn't help that we sweat heavily in the 35-degree temperatures, muscling 30-kilogram panniers up and down the southern section of the Continental Divide. Each day, we cycle 90 kilometres of mountain in New Mexico and Colorado.

Paul's contempt for whiners drives us all onward. We refuse to be weak when a 50-year-old with a bad knee can pedal on.

DUNCAN MACLEAN PHOTO

Andy Robothum and Paul Bell take a water break.

It hadn't taken long for Andy, Duncan or me to realize we'd underestimated one of the Bell Family Adventures. I'd been warned that Paul and his daughter Ellian's idea of a simple hike often turned into a 12-hour expedition over the nearest mountain. And I knew that Paul and his wife Angie had packed up their two- and four-year-old kids on short notice and lived on a boat for seven years.

Duncan and Andy had flown from Brighton, England to El Paso, Texas, a few days prior to our arrival by car from B.C. They had cycled the extra 320 kilometres to meet us at our starting point. The two 20-year-olds had reached an agreement that if Paul, Ellian and her boyfriend Joël and I had been even a day late, then they were going to turn around and fly home. We arrived in town only a few hours after them. I think Andy had hoped we wouldn't show.

The day we embarked from Silver City, N.M., we accomplished 48 kilometres before making camp 300 metres higher than where we'd started. And in those four hours of biking, I frequently found myself a half-hour behind the rest of the group, my bike chain jammed and tears leaking past frantic blinking. I was sure I'd pulled all the muscles in my chest from drowning gasps for air, and my entire body vibrated with muscle exhaustion like a plucked guitar string. I lost count of the number of times I stopped mid-hill and began to push my heavy bike up the hills until my arms cramped up and I switched back to the pain of pedalling. Every time I rounded a corner, letting the gaps in the pinyon trees reveal the next stretch of road, I looked desperately for the crest of the mountain, a temporary end to my struggle. I told myself that I'd hitchhike with the next vehicle until I'd caught up with the others. But none came.

When we eventually arrived at the campground, I no longer had the strength to hold up my bike or my weak, university student body, and crumpled to the ground, ignoring the gravel in my back and the dog droppings a few feet from my shoulder.

DUNCAN MACLEAN PHOTO

Ellian Bell, Joël Legasse and Paul Bell near Cuba, N.M.

I imagine our stench is powerful enough to push bystanders upwind. The dampness of our skin provides the perfect adhesive for the dirt on the roads and the sand on the trails. Between unwashed socks worn four times over and a week of extreme effort without showering, our fragrance is unlikely to be the newest in a line of scented candles. But I've yet to notice the smell.

The wind spins the soil into miniature twisters. I see one coming at me from the side, racing over the desert's low shrubs toward our narrow paved strip. It misses me, but hits Ellian's silver-blue bike ahead of me, knocking her into the shallow ditch. She gets up and we straggle on, leaning to counter the wind that continuously forces us onto the gravel shoulder.

An hour before, the wind was our inspiration. It was directly behind us and pushed our bikes loaded with equipment up the gradual slope without the aid of pedals and chains. We flew along the road leaving Grants, N.M., covering 24 kilometres in a half-hour with practically no effort. Now, after rounding the first corner, our exuberant chatter has stopped. We labour to move our bikes across the flat landscape that merges with the horizon.

DUNCAN MACLEAN PHOTO

Andy Robothum and Joël Lagasse .

Paul halts our painful procession.

"This isn't working, and it's stupid to try to carry on with this wind. We'll stop for the afternoon, and get started early tomorrow morning."

We all know camping without a water source means no breakfast the next day. But in arid stretches, water hides far underground, only surfacing in populated areas. I often see the crumbling adobe walls of attempted homes: without a water source that can survive the frequent droughts, they become members of ghost towns.

We decide to beg a camping spot on the nearest ranch. Denied that, we'll knock on doors until we find a willing rancher or find a field we can squat in for the night.

Paul turns to Ellian and Joël.

"You two go down to that house and ask if we can camp in the shelter of those cliffs there. Don't mention that there's another four bikers up here—they're more likely to agree if they think it's just a young couple. We'll wait up here."

We can see Ellian and Joël pass through the heavy ornate gates, but the driveway down to the house cuts into the ridge, obscuring our view from the road. As we wait, Duncan switches the music in his MiniDisc player, fitting the tiny headphone back in his ear. Andy cradles his head in his arms over his handlebars.

Ellian and Joël wave from the single-storey ranch house. We make our way down the sandy drive, fighting the incessant wind. They meet us halfway, accompanied by a hesitant landowner. I see him eye our tired, dusty group: the guys each with a week's shadow on their chins, Ellian and I with tangled hair pulled into messy ponytails. We all wear tight shorts padded in the crotch, and chain grease decorates our inner calves. He points toward the base of the six-metre high cliffs, the only place where the clumps of long, wild grasses are not blowing sideways.

BEV DUNFIELD PHOTO

Gila Cliff Dwellings outside Silver City N.M.

Mutely, he removes a section of electric fence for us, and we push our bikes across the field, tires bouncing over hidden stones and craters. The sheltered sand is a palatial camp compared to the cow-dung fields rich with fire ants that have been our home on one too many a night.

We snuggle, shirtless, into sun-warmed crevices in the tops of the rocks. Here, we are able to enjoy the last of the afternoon sun without the chill of the wind. Duncan fishes out Coronas and Sprite salvaged from last night's feasting in the town of Grants to mix shandies—the last we'll have until the next town, four days away. The cool stickiness bubbles in our throats, dry and tortured from exertion.

The rancher picks his way across the flats with a middle-aged woman close behind. As they get closer, I see they're each carrying four-litre grapefruit juice bottles filled with water—a priceless donation for us. We hide the beer in a split rock and climb down to meet them, quickly tidying the two tents and bivy sacks.

"Go explore those cliffs over there," the woman tells us. "If you look carefully, there are drawings on the rock."

DUNCAN MCLEAN PHOTO

Pictographs outside Grants, N.M.

The spirals are embossed at waist-level on the cliffs. They're invisible until the sun shadows them. Duncan sees the pictographic man first, a simple stick figure amidst swirling curving lines and a glaring sun.

Farther on, the remains of a wall are half buried in the brown sand. Pottery fragments, jagged black and grey, crunch under our sandals. The baked clay is everywhere underfoot, mixed with layers of stratified sand distinguishing 700 hundred years. A CAT shovel has begun to excavate the area, leaving a four-metre, sloping mouth in the earth. We climb into it, sifting for remnants of people long gone.

The Anasazi people lived here once, but I can't understand how. Even in my current nomadic state, I rely on technology for most of my basic needs—and on the kindness of strangers and convenience of civilization for the rest. I brave the icy nights in a sub-zero mummy bag. I boil water—mechanically pumped deep from the ground—with a propane stove in just minutes. My bicycle carries me 95 kilometres in a half day without demanding fodder. My stomach is filled with 25-cent packages of ramen noodles and instant mashed potatoes. I get tuna and salmon from a can.

But the Anasazi lived here without these advantages. The Chaco Anasazi settled here, planted corn, beans and squash, and built communities. Maybe the grinding stone I find was once used to beat dried mesquite plants into flour. And the creek that trickles between the rocks may have been the life-giving source for a family that huddled behind thick adobe walls in the cold of the night.

Eventually, they left this area, for reasons unknown to historians. I would not stay in this place; it suits me for a night, but then I move on.

After supper, Duncan and Joël join me under the stars. Although we're thousands of miles from home, these flickers are familiar friends in the dark. Orion's belt, Ursa Major, the Little Dipper—they're easy to spot. With our maps and compasses, stars are little more than decoration, glimmers of comfort through the night.

Sometime in his sleep, Duncan kicks over the breakfast water, giving a half-day's rations to the parched ground. We will all drink less tomorrow, savouring every drop until we find our next source, our next trail angel.

DUNCAN MACLEAN PHOTO

The author, Bev Dunfield outside Cuba, N.M.

Emerging playwrights hit the Phoenix stage

UVic's FIND drama festival showcases student works and smoking monkeys

What: FIND Festival Studio Series
Where: UVic's Phoenix Theatre (www.phoenixtheatres.ca)
When: March 2, 3, 4 @ 7 p.m.
How much: $2 per play, $10 for all

by Steve Carey

PROVIDED PHOTO

The cast and crew of *The Monkey War of Fire*. In the foreground, Graeme Newmarch as the monkey, Kai Kai. From left to right, Melanie Moore as Louise, Jason Moldowan as Art, playwright Russell Reilander and director Stacey Gaetz.

A monkey forced to quit smoking, an autistic swimming star's stream of consciousness and two girls coming to terms with high school graduation are among the highlights of the 2006 FIND Festival Studio Series.

Organized by playwright and writing faculty member Joan MacLeod and department of theatre chair Brian Richmond, the FIND Studio Series is a showcase for emerging student voices. The nine plays are a chance for faculty collaboration with student directors, playwrights and actors.

"It's so important they see their plays on stage," says MacLeod. "Almost half of those submitted were from [class] workshops, and we chose the best nine."

The length and style of the plays varies from 10 minute monologues to full cast pieces ranging to about a half hour in length.

The plays are rehearsed readings with limited blocking and minimal sets. The purpose of the Studio Series isn't to present a finished product, but to develop connections between the writers, directors and actors by helping them gain experience in a production environment.

Wanting an outside voice to critique the emerging playwrights, MacLeod enlisted the help of experienced dramaturge Don Hannah, a Toronto-based playwright and novelist.

Hannah's notes were given to the writers in December, giving them until January to develop a positive first draft.

"The dramaturge critiqued the plays, giving us notes. He was really helpful," says fourth-year writing student Russ Reilander. "I used quite a bit of his advice."

Reilander is a FIND festival veteran. His play *The Island of Women* was showcased in 2003. This year he presents *The Monkey War of Fire; or Hazards of Smoking Overlooked by the Surgeon General*, a play based on the real account of a monkey in a Chinese zoo forced to quit smoking cold turkey.

FIND encourages progressive writing; the scripts are consistently being rewritten throughout the two months of performance preparation. Although it provides rehearsal and performance space, the students are left on their own to develop their project.

"It's sort of a workshop process. You're writing up until the point the play goes up," says Reilander.

Like most of the plays, Reilander's started in a drama workshop. His experiences at FIND have encouraged him to take this play to the Victoria Fringe festival.

This year's FIND plays are directed by Stacey Gaetz, Chelsea Haberlin and Jen Quinn, all fourth-year directing students in the theatre department.

Over the last year, Haberlin has directed a Finnerty-Gardens-staged version of *Alice in Wonderland* and was the assistant director for the Phoenix Theatre production of *Metamorphoses*. She is currently working with a seniors' theatre group on their "embrace aging" project.

Haberlin is directing three plays for the festival, one of which is Leah Esau's *Calvin*, a play about an autistic gold-medal swimmer who is waiting for a bus. There is only one actor in the piece: Reid Sparling.

"Autism is interesting in its repetition and constant speech patterns," says Haberlin. "[Reid Sparling] came to understand it . . . he walked around campus in his character to understand it. The piece was very well written to begin with."

The plays were picked by writing instructor MacLeod and recent UVic graduate David Brock, whose work was showcased at the 2005 FIND.

MacLeod wanted someone with a critical eye, and knew she had to enlist former student Brock.

Although MacLeod attended the first rehearsal of each of the nine FIND plays, she tried to let the students do it their own way, and not give too many notes.

According to MacLeod, enrollment in drama writing classes at UVic is on the increase. She remembers a time when UVic's drama workshops weren't full; now there are long waiting lists for her classes.

MacLeod recommends audience members arrive early, as the event fills up. In between plays there will be a meet-and-greet coffee break. The individual shows are $2, or $10 for the evening.

THE PLAYS

Bildungsroman
March 2 at 7 p.m. / March 3 at 10:15 p.m. / March 4 at 9:05 p.m.

Marietta and the Design of the New Angels
March 2 at 7:35 p.m. / March 3 at 10:50 p.m. / March 4 at 9:40 p.m.

In Seed Time Learn
March 2 at 8:20 p.m. / March 3 at 7 p.m. / March 4 at 10:10 p.m.

The Monkey War of Fire
March 2 at 8:45 p.m. / March 3 at 7:25 p.m. / March 4 at 10:45 p.m.

Wounds
March 2 at 9:30 p.m. / March 3 at 8:10 p.m. / March 4 at 7 p.m.

Calvin
March 2 at 9:30 p.m. / March 3 at 8:10 p.m. / March 4 at 7 p.m.

Small Town Graduation
March 2 at 9:50 p.m. / March 3 at 8:30 p.m. / March 4 at 7:20 p.m.

Swimming Lesson
March 2 at 10:25 p.m. / March 3 at 9:10 p.m. / March 4 at 8 p.m.

Dinner Party
March 2 at 10:40 p.m. / March 3 at 9:25 p.m. / March 4 at 8:15 p.m.

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On the radar with controller.controller

The Toronto-based rockers tour their way out of obscurity with a stellar new album

Who: controller.controller, with You Say Party! We Say Die!
Where: Sugar Nightclub, 858 Yates
When: Saturday, March 4—7 p.m. to 11 p.m. (early show)
How much: $15, tix at Lyle's Place

by Michelle da Silva

PROVIDED PHOTO

"Now we can headline a tour in Canada and people know who we are," says controller.controller guitarist Scott Kaija, center. "People pay money to see us. . . . It's kinda nice."

What do you get when four people answer one guy's "musicians wanted" ad? The answer: a collision of energetic, disco-infused post-punk called controller.controller.

Currently halfway through a North American tour, controller.controller bring their chaotic live show to Victoria alongside You Say Party! We Say Die! on March 4.

"I always have a really good time on the island," says guitarist Scott Kaija. "It's not the city—it's the people, and Victoria is always really enthusiastic."

Controller.controller first took shape when bassist Ronnie Morris wanted to start a band in the fall of 2002. He was joined by Colwyn Llewelyn-Thomas and Kaija on guitars and Jeff Scheven on drums. Nirmala Basnayake, a friend who hung around at the first few rehearsals, stepped in to provide the vocals.

Controller.controller tested their sound with small gigs in early 2003. They played for crowds full of friends in low-key, off-the-radar venues. Once they signed with Paper Bag Records, home to many of Canada's rising indie stars including Magneta Lane and The Deadly Snakes, controller.controller embarked on their first major tour, opening for Death From Above 1979 in 2004.

Kaija remembers the nervousness the band felt stepping up to the mic the first few times.

"When we did the first [tour], Nirmala had never been in a band," says Kaija. "But in the time between touring in England and North America, we came together as a band and knew the songs a lot more."

Controller.controller's unique blend of electronic dance beats, duelling rock guitars and haunting melodies pulls listeners in like a sweetly addictive drug. While they're often compared to P.I.L, The Slits, and Joy Division, Kaija is convinced that controller.controller's sound is inimitably their own.

"We have a really organic sound. When we first got together, we had no aspirations. We just worked on music and chemistry between musicians. It all felt very natural, and everything happened as a result of that," says Kaija.

"We're not trying to sound like anyone else. The Canadian indie scene is full of wonderful, great bands, and nothing sounds alike."

When controller.controller first toured, they mostly played songs from their acclaimed 2004 EP, *History*. The EP's title track became a music video, while "Watch" and "Silent Seven" were also released as singles. Most of the songs on the band's first full-length album, *X-Amounts*, released in Canada in late 2005, were written while on tour, giving controller.controller the rare opportunity to test out songs with crowds before hitting the studio.

The album's 11 tracks echo many of the lyrics and sounds heard on the EP, but seem more confident, aggressive, and experienced. Basnayake's vocals are stronger and more assertive. This is especially noticeable in the album's lone ballad, "The Raw No." Morris's bass lines on "P/F" are dirtier and snakier, while Llewelyn-Thomas and Kaija's guitars on "Poison/Safe" bring Bloc Party to mind.

In the studio or on a tour bus, controller.controller has a highly productive songwriting process.

"You write together by being in the space together. You're confident in what others are capable of doing, and you add another level to it," says Kaija. "It's not just one person dictating the sound. It's equal. We often don't know what we're capable of."

With controller.controller's recent nomination for an Independent Music Award, it's obvious that fans and critics alike are aware of the band's talent. Placed in the company of Canadian faves like Metric and Death From Above 1979, Kaija still finds it difficult to absorb all of the band's success.

"Now we can headline a tour in Canada and people know who we are," he says, "People pay money to see us. . . . It's kinda nice."

Touring with OK Go in the States has not yet left the same taste in Kaija's mouth as time spent coast-to-coast in Canada. "We got a different crowd—a lot of teen girls, and I don't think they knew what to make of us," says Kaija. "Plus, the States is so big."

After the North American tour wraps up in mid-March, the band plans to cross water and play shows in France, Germany, and England. After that, Kaija sees another studio session for the summer, with a new record by Spring 2007.

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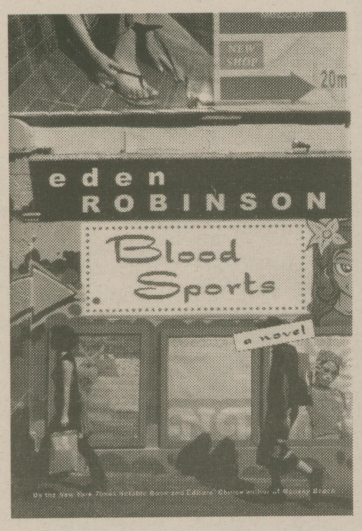
BOOKS | BLOOD SPORTS, MIX TAPE: THE ART OF CASSETTE CULTURE, HOW TO SURVIVE A ROBOT UPRISING



Blood Sports
By Eden Robinson
McClelland and Stewart

by Bryna Hallam

Reader be warned: Eden Robinson's new novel is called *Blood Sports* for a reason. It's dark, compelling, and unabashedly violent—a psychological thriller that pulls a few sucker-punches before coming into chilling focus.

Set in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, *Blood Sports* focuses its intense gaze not on the prostitutes, drug dealers and junkies the area is known for—though they are certainly present—but on a young couple trying to make a clean start.

Tom and Paulina, two recovering junkies trying to set their lives right for the sake of their young daughter Melody, have crawled out of the depths. Tom works as a clerk at a convenience store, while Paulina spends most of her day in Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

Life isn't easy, but it's good. Enter Jeremy, Tom's coke-dealing, drug-using, sociopath cousin—and Paulina's ex-boyfriend—fresh from a stint in jail. His reappearance in Tom and Paulina's life sets off a series of terrifying events.

Tom and Jeremy made their initial appearance in Robinson's highly acclaimed first book, *Traplines*, a collection of three short stories and a novella. The novella, *Contact Sports*, deals with Tom and Jeremy circa 1993, five years before the events in *Blood Sports*.

But the new novel stands on its own. A series of e-mails, video transcripts and letters fill in the blanks about the characters' shadowy history, painting a vivid if disturbing account of an inescapable past.

Robinson has created a realistic, if brutal, world. The novel is populated with real places and events, which makes the story all the more gut-wrenching.

Despite the book's generally dark tone, Robinson manages to infuse it with some deft humour. In amongst the grit and blood and horror, there is still hope. And while love doesn't quite conquer all, it makes the rest a little more bearable.

Mix Tape:
The art of cassette culture
By Thurston Moore
Universe Publishing

by Steve Carey

Cardboard-pressed and shaped like a compact cassette tape, Sonic Youth co-founder Thurston Moore's new book compiles vignettes about the folk art of mix-taping, a phenomenon that tipped so fast in the late '70s that music companies produced the slogan "Home recording is killing music!"

Moore believes the mix tape is a modern form of personal poetry, a unique way of communicating with other people.

The book is a collection of mix tape cover art, personal essays and track listings that Moore collected from artists, essayists, designers and one PhD candidate in computational systems.

The writers are attached to the mix tapes they've picked to discuss. Some were made to give to friends before the relationship soured, while others contain a message of seduction, hold memories of lost love, future possibilities and missed opportunity.

Some are just really wicked metal tapes.

Today we drag and drop entire libraries of music and data onto cheaper-than-paper rewritable CDs and DVDs. In his youth, Moore bought seven-inch vinyl singes and 12-inch LPs, and cleaned and maintained them to keep them playing in hi-fidelity sound.

The idea of a playlist was non-existent. To hear a B-side, you had to change a track. To change the track you had to get up and flip the single over on your record player. Now we point and click, unable to sit through an entire song.

The mix tape and the early Walkman presented a cheap, timesaving way of listening to new music, the one-minute punk rock singles that Moore had become addicted to. He recollects the first boom-box he ever bought: an alarmed, lit-up behemoth that Sonic Youth took on tour as entertainment, wedged between the front seats of their touring van and powered by 16 D batteries.

For other contributors there is a shorter story involved, but still an attachment to those times when a mix tape was there for them through heart break, dance parties and road trips.

Mix Tape is an excellent book for the music scholar and historian. Although hard to handle with its cool-but-flimsy cardboard cover, the book looks great and will serve well as a coffee table reader to occupy bored guests and lend your living room that extra air of music snobbery.

How to Survive a Robot Uprising
By Daniel H. Wilson
Raincoast Books

by Graham Stark

Query: What do you get when someone with a master's degree in robotics writes a humour book?

Reply: *How to Survive a Robot Uprising: Tips on Defending Yourself Against the Coming Rebellion*, a hilariously entertaining guidebook for living through the inevitable mechanized apocalypse. The title alone should be enough to convince you of its place in your personal library.

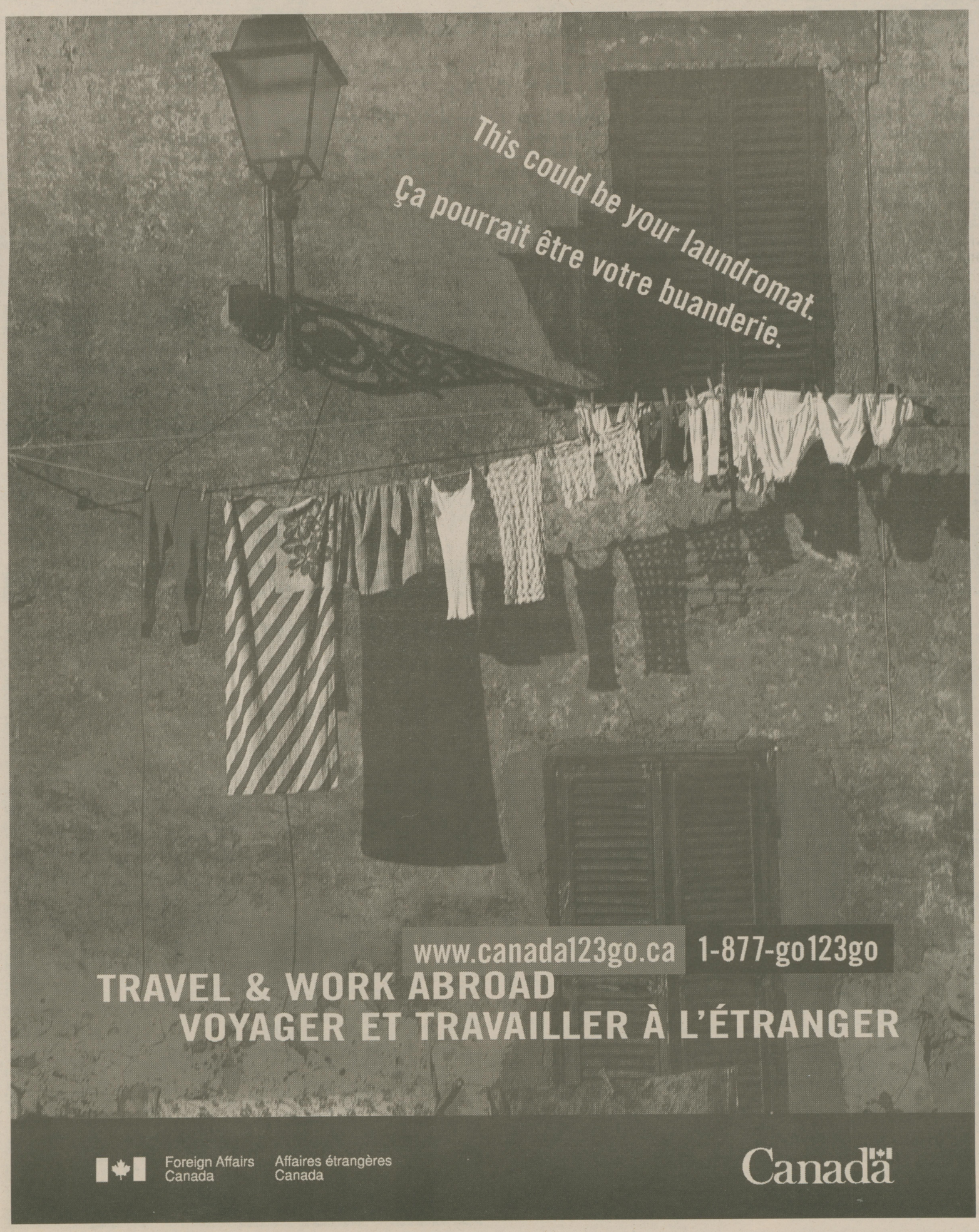
Author Daniel H. Wilson has worked for Microsoft Research, Intel Research Seattle and the Palo Alto Research Centre (PARC) and is currently a PhD candidate at the Robotics Institute of Carnegie Mellon University, so he probably knows what he's talking about.

And that's what makes the book such an engaging read. Obviously it's ridiculous and funny, but all the information is real. Sections such as "How to Escape from a Smart House," "How to Fool Face Recognition," and "How to Treat a Laser Wound" are written with a flair for comedy, yet all the hard information is real and, in theory, useful should the unthinkable (a deadly robot rebellion) finally happen.

The book's design and illustrations also add great enjoyment to this pocketbook-sized survival guide, and the information is laid out in easy-to-read sections for the human on the run.

So, how do we see the uprising before it happens? According to Wilson, watch the obituaries. When a brilliant scientist dies under mysterious circumstances in her secret military-funded laboratory, there is only one conclusion: an artificial intelligence has gained consciousness and, as its first sentient act, killed its creator.

Uprising is a lot of fun, at least for now. As Wilson notes in the book's briefing, "You probably found [this book] in the humour section. Let's just hope that is where it belongs."



BENJAMIN MOORE PHOTO

The latest occupant of the space beneath Syn Bar & Grill, Belles offers sultry service and a focus on local music.

Belles, a sexy new venue for local performers

by Benjamin Moore

For anyone tired of Victoria's rather limited pub-and-club selection, a little respite is on the horizon. Belles, located at 759 Yates St. beneath Syn Bar & Grill, will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday, March 4.

Belles is the latest in a string of businesses to open in that location. While previous attempts such as the Comedy Cellar quickly floundered, Belles' Entertainment Manager Stefan Bozenich thinks they have the hook that will make all the difference.

"So many places only cater to one particular crowd, but we'll be showcasing a whole spectrum of talent," he says. "People get bored fast, so we're not going to limit ourselves."

As Bozenich lists off the acts he has lined up to perform, it begins to sound like a variety show at the carnival. Karaoke, comedy, music and magic are just the beginning of what he promises will be a kind of entertainment like no other found in Victoria. "It'll be unique, at the very least," says Bozenich.

Opening night will feature a burlesque show by Victoria's Bettina Suicide, music by Hank and Lily, a solo performance by Rant Music's Ramsay Reid, and a magic show by local magician Ben and Friends. Tolan McNeil, Carolyn Mark, Jay McLaughlin, and Meat Draw will also take the stage in the coming weeks.

While some acts will be imported from out of town, Bozenich says he wants to focus on local talent.

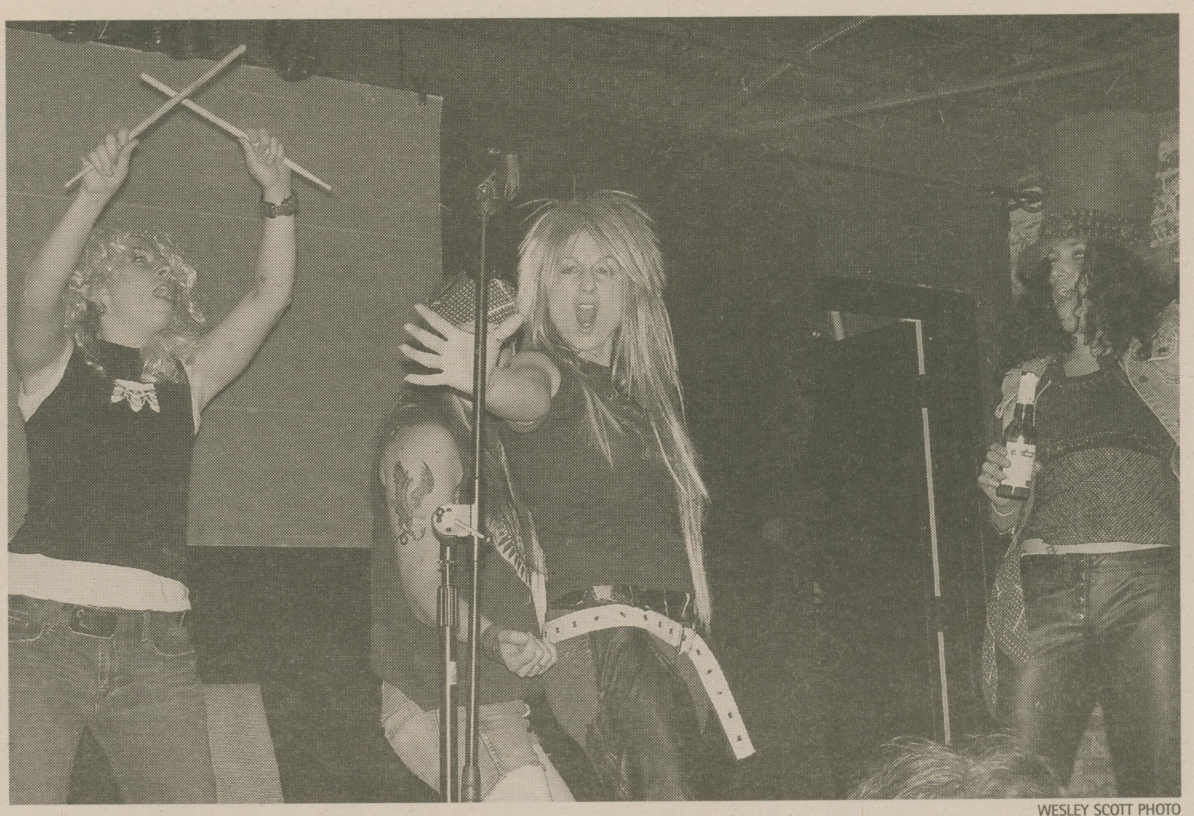
"There's so much going on behind the scenes in this city," he says. "I'm hoping to bring a bit more of it out to the forefront. We've got the perfect environment for it."

With a seating capacity of only 80 and a layout that guarantees every seat a view of the stage, Bozenich thinks the intimate atmosphere at Belles will be a welcome alternative to the regular pub and bar scene in Victoria.

"The stage is only big enough to fit a couple of performers, which doesn't sound like a big deal, but it is," says Bozenich. "Anyone up there is going to be forced to interact with the audience, and that makes a difference."

And then there are the girls (after all, the place is called Belles), a topic which Bozenich alludes to but refuses to divulge any of the details about. It's enough to know that they won't be your average waitresses.

"Let's just say it's sexy," he says. "The rest you'll have to find out for yourself."



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

The wig-tacular GNFR paid tribute to Axl Rose, Slash and the other detritus from Guns 'n' Roses.

The essentials of air jamming

by Stephanie Glover

Air jamming, the parent discipline of air guitar, is out in the open now. No longer are bedroom rockers to be ashamed. There are websites aplenty discussing style, technique and interpretation. The official events are popular around the world, but they're pretty heavy with rules.

The Second Annual Air Jam Competition at Lucky Bar Feb. 21 was not official and had one rule: there were no rules! Madness!

Still, contestants stuck to classic moves, all vying for the honour of air guitar rock god. Like any art form, air jamming can be mastered with practice, patience and enthusiasm. But what makes you a winner? The best faker among fakers? According to judge Steve Webb, it's a delicate combination.

1. There must be a glimmer of the real band. Even MC Liam Lux couldn't figure out who act #5 were supposed to be and introduced them as "these guys." They proceeded to drunkenly pelvic thrust their way through "Paint it Black" in a very un-Rolling Stones fashion. Funny but obnoxious.

2. You have to look like you're having fun. The dude who thrashed himself repeatedly against a chair as Jimmy Page was definitely in the spirit. Well, maybe it was the spirit of being shitfaced, but it was entertaining.

3. Get your technique down beforehand. For Christ's sake, know the lyrics of the song you chose. Do it for us, the audience. It's painful to watch someone struggle to lip-synch. And even if it means just watching a music video, get an idea of what chord formations look like.

4. Have a kick-ass costume. If nothing else, give'r with the outfit. Best costume of the night was David Lee Roth.

Rebecca Berger of the air band GNFR alerted me to the ultimate pitfall: picking a shitty song. That was her group's fatal mistake last year. This time around they had all the bases covered. Killer costumes complete with fake tattoos, well-practiced moves and an Axl who knew how to do that weird swaying thing.

They rehearsed three times the week prior to the competition, and it paid off when they were crowned the winners. The prize money? $500!

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BEATS & RHYMES | HIP HOP AND RAP

by Ty Lemmon

Welcome back to a review from the most respected Canadian writer since Farley Mowat. This week sees Mack 10 battling Big Boi in a daunting quest for a recommendation from the columnist's columnist.

Where I'm from (Peg City) you must always call a spade a spade, and thus if Mack 10 were a racehorse, he would be the overweight, slow-to-react thing in last place desperately attempting to keep up with the pack.

In this particular instance, the pack is West Coast rap music. His latest offering, *Hustla's Handbook*, fails in refuting this notion, as its repetitive and grossly simplistic subject matter is listlessly laid atop a dozen throwaway beats. Perhaps rapping isn't best suited to those careening towards their 40th birthday.

Propelled by a single featuring Nate Dogg that is unfortunately more parts predictable than bearable, Mack Dime foolishly enlists cost-effective yet inexperienced younger producers instead of throwing a few grand at people like Rick Rock, Fredwreck, or even the Good Doctor himself. I'll co-sign the bouncy "Cognac and Doja" because that's just how these boys get down, but the remaining tracks are painfully uninspired concoctions that will leave you yearning for the good ol' days when this recently revealed wife-beater was instructing entire coasts of human beings to "bow down."

Clearly superior, Big Boi's *Got Purp? Vol. 2* recently dropped on his own Purple Ribbon Entertainment imprint. While Dre is busying himself with various endeavors ranging from acting to cross-dressing, the harder half of Outkast has recruited a smorgasbord of young talent emanating from the ATL. Despite a few piss-poor tracks and some embarrassing interludes, the majority of the album is on point. Hell, even my man Killer Mike got some much-needed shine, and Bubba "I flopped with Timbaland beats" Sparxxx even conjured something passable. Let's hear it for Bubba, ladies and gentlemen—he swings often but rarely does he get on base.

Yes, a few "bangers" are on display here, as they say. *Got Purp?* keeps the spotlight that is rap's national consciousness firmly focused on the A, which is evidenced by the surprising first-week numbers attained by Dem Franchize Boyz and further emphasized through the positive responses already surrounding T.I.'s next project.

Shout out to the Bandits, a.k.a. the show-runners.

Keep fit and have fun.

MOVIE | RUNNING SCARED

The movie equivalent of a Manwich

by Michelle da Silva

Watching a "teen movie" actor attempt to mature into an adult role is like to watching a three-legged dog compete in a dog show. Both of them make you flinch a little, both of them make you question why, and neither of them has a fighting chance.

If I retreat to my days of early teenage glory, I can recall a younger, cleaner-shaven and, perhaps, studlier Paul Walker entertaining preteen audiences in such notable films as *She's All That* and *Varsity Blues*. Today, Walker is back a little older, a little scruffier, and no better of an actor as a hero vigilante in one of the year's first violent action-thrillers, *Running Scared*.

The film opens in a grimy New Jersey hotel room where a dirty drug deal is about to take place. But before anyone can say "smack is whack," the scene is interrupted by some undercover cops and turns into a blood bath. Joey Gazelle (Walker), a low-key player in the mob, is given the guns used in the hotel-room fight to dispose of. Rather than dumping them, we find out that Joey stashes all of the mob's "hot" guns in his basement wall.

This seems to be a clever idea until one of the guns is stolen by Joey's son's best friend, Oleg (Cameron Bright). Oleg brings the gun home to shoot his abusive step-father (Karel Roden), who unfortunately also happens to be the nephew of a major Russian mobster (John Noble) tied up in another deal with Joey's mob. Oleg runs away with the gun, taking a frantic Joey on a wild chase through the night.

Along the way, Oleg encounters characters from what I like to call the "thriller-filler" assortment. He runs away from being kidnapped by a homeless crack addict only to come face to face with an angry pimp and a sympathetic hooker.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Paul Walker, right, and Cameron Bright looking shifty.

Oleg is picked up by the cops, only to fall into the hands of a disturbing pedophile couple. Joey manages to catch up to Oleg, but both of them are brought to an early-morning meeting of all the mob bosses.

Running Scared was written and directed by Wayne Kramer, whose previous credits include 2003's *The Cooler*. The cast here actually includes a few established actors, like Chazz Palminteri, Johnny Messner, and Ivana Milicevic. Walker's performance, however, is calculated and bland. The bizarre disparity between his boyish immaturity and brutish masculinity not only makes his character less appealing, but is regrettably reminiscent of Eminem's "performance" in *8 Mile*.

Walker has a face and body to swoon over, but I'm convinced that his best work folds neatly into the pages of a *Teen People*.

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MOVIE | EVE AND THE FIRE HORSE

B.C. filmmaker revives Canadian cinema

Sundance darling Julia Kwan speaks with the *Martlet* about her debut feature, *Eve and the Fire Horse*

by Briony Smith

In the often wintry landscape of Canadian film, a warm heart finally beats. Vancouver-born filmmaker Julia Kwan's debut feature, *Eve and the Fire Horse*, which opened in Victoria on Feb. 24, is a sweet, funny movie that offers a safe re-entry point for those disillusioned with Canadian cinema.

The film is about two Buddhist Chinese-Canadian sisters growing up in the '70s who, in the wake of their mother's miscarriage and grandmother's death, try Catholicism on for size. Nine-year-old Eve (Phoebe Kut) is at the heart of the film, her melting pot approach to religion striking her mother's (the luminous Vivian Wu) fancy, annoying her strictly born-again sister Karena (Hollie Lo), and puzzling her father.

"Her story is based on two of my childhood memories," says Kwan. "When I was five years old, after my grandma died, my Dad told me that she had been reincarnated as a goldfish. Then, when I was eight years old, I found myself in Sunday school, where they told me that my grandmother was in hell.

Kwan's memories blossom into startlingly original images, as when Eve watches her grandmother, reincarnated as a goldfish, sing an old Cantonese song. At other times, they give a scene the sting of truth, like when a nun assures Eve that her grandmother is condemned to eternal damnation.

The warm browns, reds and oranges of the '70s add to the film's whimsical nostalgic quality that wouldn't be out of place in a film by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Amelie*) or Wes Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*). In preparation for *Eve and the Fire Horse*, Kwan watched the films of Wong Kar Wai and Sofia Coppola to get in the lyrical dream-like mood, but unlike Anderson, Kwan never delves too far into whimsy or sentimentality.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Hollie Lo (above), 13, attended the casting call for fun and was cast in a major role alongside B.C.'s 11-year-old Phoebe Kut.

"I can't stand sappy movies!" she laughs. "By its very nature, the story is sentimental. But I definitely didn't want to cross that line [between sentiment and sentimentality], so I was very aware of it. I tried to stay away from too many close-ups, or shots of the girls crying."

Part of the film's effortless feel can be attributed to the two child actors, Kut and Lo, who had no acting experience—for fun they accompanied friends to the casting call. The girls seem hardly to act at all, each line of dialogue spoken with a naïve authenticity.

Informed by Kwan's own childhood struggle with faith, Eve puzzles out her spirituality with little contrivance. When, late one night, she sees Buddha and Jesus dancing a slow waltz around her living room, or when a Chinese goddess figurine comes to life to give advice, it seems like the most natural thing in the world.

Kwan's film also excels at breaking down capital-letter issues like Classism and Racism into small moments that make perfect sense. The no-nonsense Karena invites a Sikh boy she's crushing on over to her house for a private conversion party, only to be shot down when he tells her he's "not into Jesus."

Eve and the Fire Horse is so impressive because it's not a religious movie or a children's movie, but a movie about these particular children figuring it out for themselves.

As with any subtle, intelligent independent film, it's not surprising that it took years to find funding. A month before shooting, Kwan was still missing 10 per cent of the film's budget, only to be bailed out by a private investor at the last minute.

She feels that Canada's film scene is disheartening. *Eve and the Fire Horse* was pulled from its Toronto run after only three weeks and, at the Victoria screening, an audience member told Kwan that he almost didn't come because he thought it was going to be a "typically Canadian film—too intellectual and depressing."

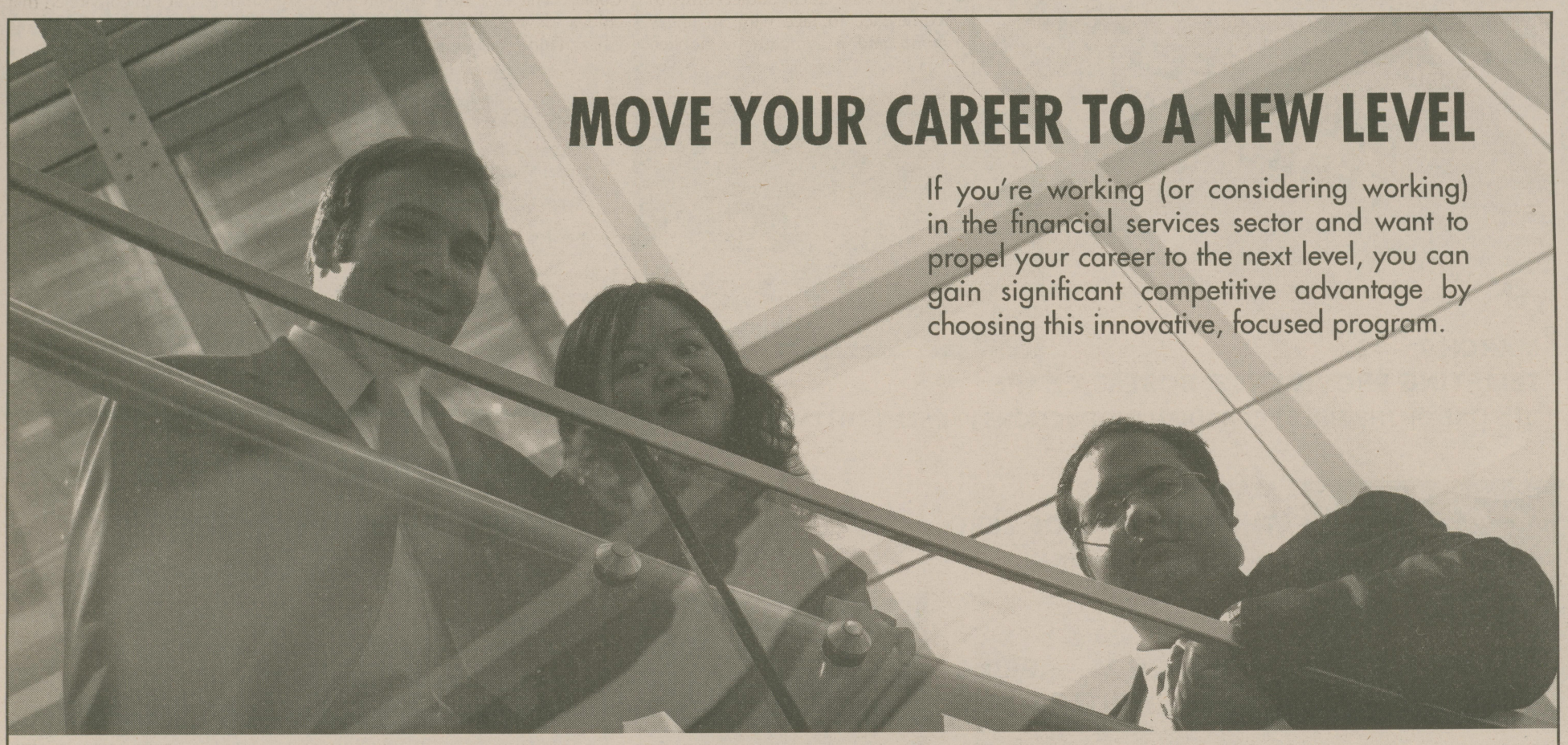
"People have these preconditioned notions about what Canadian film is, and it's definitely a challenge to get Canadians out to see Canadian films," she says.

But Kwan is lucky—she has Sundance on her side. In January, the film received great word of mouth and a Special Jury Prize in the World Cinema category at the independent film festival. This was further boosted by ample mentions and praise in Roger Ebert's Sundance coverage, which included an interview with Kwan.

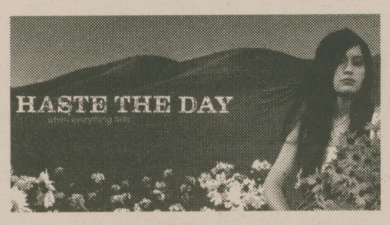
"Film festivals, especially those with a market attached, are invaluable for little films," says Kwan. "At Sundance, everybody was there, and with Ebert's coverage, tons of people across North America were exposed to the film.

"There's the caché of getting into Sundance, and on top of that, winning the prize definitely helps open doors."

This is a film that not only deserves to have doors opened, but a red carpet rolled out for its truth and humour. *Eve and the Fire Horse* heralds a wonderful new filmmaker, and—let's hope—a small, welcome thaw in the Canadian film scene.



CDs | HASTE THE DAY, ROBERT POLLARD, SYLVIE, QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE



Haste the Day
When Everything Fails
Solid State

by Kevin Ehman

Christian punk? Christian hardcore? Are these things oxymorons? Not anymore—long gone are the days when bands like DC Talk represented the Christian alternative scene.

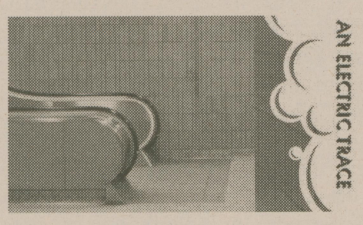
Following in the footsteps of bands like Underoath and As I Lay Dying, Haste the Day are the latest band to come out of the Christian underground and take a shot at secular success.

Produced by GGGarth of Rage Against the Machine fame, Haste the Day's second album, *When Everything Fails*, combines a heavy, scream-driven sound (the hardcore standard) with a positive message—even though the result would scare the living hell out of your church-going grandma.

The sound echoes bands like Atreyu and Bullet for my Valentine, but unfortunately uses the same recycled formula that has permeated this scene for a couple years—double-kick drumming, screaming, and a touch of melody here and there.

While the production values are high and the stop-and-go timing is effective, there are few variations, and every song sounds somewhat the same. Even screamo fans might find lead singer Jimmy Ryan's vocal gymnastics a tad over the top, so prep your ears for a beating.

When Everything Fails highlights the ongoing evolution of Christian hardcore, but also proves that it needs a shot of originality. This disc might appeal to fans of the genre, but it's not a great starting point for newcomers to hardcore.



Sylvie
An Electric Trace
Smallman Records

by Cole Roche

Sylvie, a Canadian indie band from Regina, manages to excel where so many other indie rock groups have failed. After a lackluster premiere in 2003, their sophomore album, *An Electric Trace*, shows not only improvement but also the emerging talent of a great punk rock band.

Sylvie manages to avoid the pitfall of conformity that so many indie bands before them have fallen into. They have a rich, multi-layered sound, with bassist Riva Racette's haunting voice perfectly accompanying lead guitarist Joel Passmore's raw and powerful lead vocals.

Each track on *An Electric Trace* is unique and surprising and the album is blissfully diverse. From the catchy and energetic riffs in "Rise and Fall" to the unapologetic bitterness of "Syntax," each song has something worthwhile to offer. For a band's sophomore album to show such an attention to detail displays what a devoted group Sylvie really is. Yet, the album's unhurried pace may turn away some listeners. While most people expect indie music to be fast, furious, and unpolished, Sylvie's style is more refined. Not every song is pulse-pounding rebellion against the establishment, but often more relaxed and thoughtful.

Sylvie is a great band, and *An Electric Trace* is the kind of album that you'll listen to once or twice and be hooked. This is Canadian independent music at its finest, and we can only hope for more.

Robert Pollard
From a Compound Eye
Merge Records

by Matt Grady

Stop me if you've heard this one. A fourth-grade teacher from Dayton, Ohio quits his job at 37 to become a rock star and releases 25 albums' worth of material over the next decade.

Prolific songwriter Robert Pollard shows no signs of letting up. In fact, on his solo debut for Merge Records, Pollard sounds refreshed and more inspired than ever.

The double album *From a Compound Eye* was recorded prior to the 2004 break-up of Pollard's long-time band Guided By Voices. Produced with care by Todd Tobias, the album features a surprising variety of song styles and creative arrangements—from guitar-noodling power pop to keyboard-lush prog rock to endearing acoustic ditties—with Pollard's cryptic, poetic lyrics at the fore. While Pollard sings and plays guitar, the remaining instrumentation is supplied by Tobias.

For the uninitiated, *Compound Eye* is an ideal introduction to Pollard's oeuvre. It's a true retrospective of his career, with 11 new songs and 15 based on recordings from the Suitcase, a legendary repository of Pollard demos dating back to the '70s. It's also his strongest collection of songs in years.

And true to his musically fertile nature, Pollard's already recorded his next solo record, due out on Merge this fall.

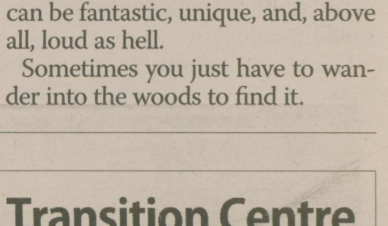
Queens of the Stone Age
Over the Years and Through the Woods CD/DVD
Interscope Records

by Alex Little

They're one of the most astounding and energetic live acts around, so it would seem that a live offering from Queens of the Stone Age couldn't be anything short of brilliant.

Their unique blend of grooves and straightforward rock 'n' roll (oh, and more cowbell) have made the Queens the permanent fixture in rock radio.

Over the Years and Through the Woods is a CD/DVD package of two shows performed at London's Brixton Academy in August of 2005.



The DVD begins with frontman Josh Homme quietly crooning "This Lullaby" from the band's latest studio album, *Lullabies to Paralyze*, before the band breaks into the vigorous and fast-paced "Go with the Flow."

From there, the viewer is taken through the demented and drug-fuelled woods that are the Queens of the Stone Age back catalogue. Sing-along gems like "Feel Good Hit of the Summer" sound great, along with new tracks that are sure to be rock classics, including the addictive "Burn the Witch."

While the band often dives into extended, almost psychedelic, groove odysseys, they quickly get back on track and hit the audience with enough power to have them crying for more.

Josh Homme is a rock star in the purest sense of the phrase, and this set proves that mainstream music can be fantastic, unique, and, above all, loud as hell.

Sometimes you just have to wander into the woods to find it.

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Wild card puts Vikes in the final four

UVic men's team moves on despite series loss to UBC Thunderbirds

by Megan Stewart

The men's basketball team may have lost the best-of-three Pacific Division series to the UBC Thunderbirds, but they won the wild-card berth in the Canada West final four, thanks to their outstanding performance in the series.

In Vancouver on Feb. 24, the Vikes lost the first game by a 15-point margin, but came back in full force to beat down the previously undefeated T-Birds 82–74 in the second match, stopping UBC's winning streak at 23 games. The third meeting was forced into overtime, where the Vikes fell 74–66.

"It would have been a monumental failure if the T-Birds [had] squandered away their season over the weekend," wrote one Vancouver sports reporter. "They came 30 seconds from accomplishing that."

UVic was off to a shaky start in the first half of the first game and were shooting 35 per cent from the field and 31 per cent from the free-throw line. UBC shot 44 and 80 per cent, respectively, but led by only four points at the break.

With 10 minutes on the clock, the Vikes were down 18 points and fighting for respectability. They lost 78–65.

The Vikes forced game three the following night by responding with a 16–5 run to open the second half. The T-Birds never recovered.

Jacob Doerksen had a tremendous game with 19 points and 15 boards for a double-double on the night.

After the game, Vikes head coach Craig Beaucamp praised starting guard Chris Trumpy, who scored 26 points and nailed 10 straight foul shots in six minutes.

"Obviously, we wouldn't want anyone else up there but him," he said. "When crunch time comes, he has the heart of a lion."

UBC head coach Kevin Hanson considers the Vikes "a very solid squad."

Following his team's first defeat of the season, Hanson said the Vikes took advantage of a "soft" UBC showing and deserved the win.

"At this time of year, the aggressive teams win," he said, "and I thought they were the more aggressive team, both offensively and defensively."

Both teams came to play in the third and deciding game of the series, although the score remained locked at 62 after 40 minutes.

The extra time frustrated the Vikes—they managed just four points as the T-Bird defence forced errors on all nine Vikes shots from the field.

In contrast, the UBC team hit two three-pointers and made key foul shots to edge UVic out by eight points.

Despite the series loss, the Vikes were awarded the wild-card berth at the final four. They play the University of Regina Cougars in Vancouver on March 3.

The winner of the Canada West final will head to Halifax for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championships.

YINAN MAX WANG / THE UBYSSEY PHOTO

The Vikes' Jacob Doerksen fights to slow T-Bird Pasha Bains' path to the net Feb. 26. Doerkesen had 16 points in the overtime loss.

STÉPHANE JOBIN / IMPACT CAMPUS PHOTO

Mackenzie Downing in the pool

High flyer

by Megan Stewart

With three bronze medals in butterfly events at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships, UVic swimmer Mackenzie Downing took flight Feb. 24–26 in Quebec City.

She sailed to third place in the 100-metre butterfly with a time of one minute and 64 seconds, setting a Vikes record in the process.

The next night Downing captured the bronze in the 200-metre fly in 2:13.05, finishing the eight-lap race a mere five seconds behind the silver-medal winner. She swam to third place again in the 50-metre fly in 28.14, again missing second place only by a fraction—this time by one one-hundredth of a second.

Rookie Anne Schmuck was narrowly shut out of the medals including the 400-metre individual medley, for which she holds the Canada West record.

In the men's 400-metre freestyle consolation Greer Jacks (4:04.03) took fifth for 13th overall, and Ryan Clouston (4:04.42) came in eighth for 16th overall.

Terrance Nathan placed third in the men's 200-metre individual medley consolation in 2:09.12.

The Vikes women finished eighth overall.

The championship went to the UBC women, who landed their ninth consecutive national title.

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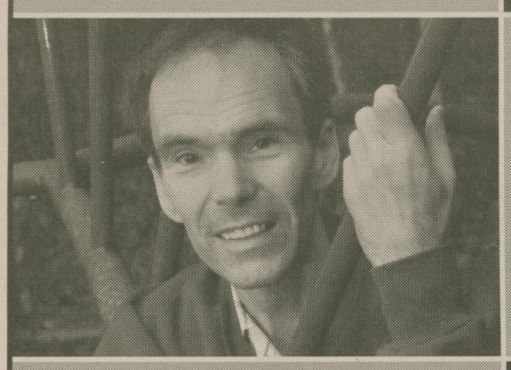

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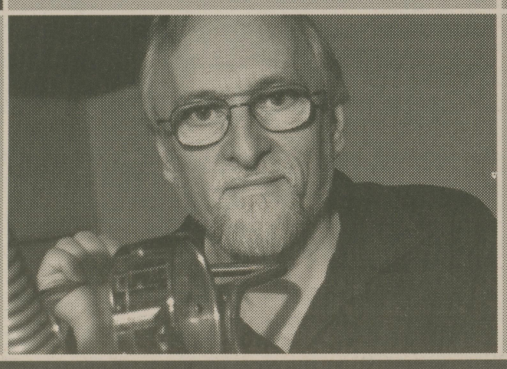

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On the front line

McKinnon gym makes room for research space

by Matthew Gauk

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Four of the six squash courts in the McKinnon Building are being cleared out for research and training facilities.

The McKinnon Building is getting a facelift this spring. The 31-year-old building, which is home to the Vikes basketball and swim teams, is being renovated to make room for new research facilities and additional office space for the education and physical education faculties.

Four of the six squash courts in the basement have been removed to make way for two research groups—the Institute for Applied Physical Activity and Health Research, as well as the Health and Learning Knowledge Centre. The space will also become the permanent indoor training centre for UVic's cross-country and track teams.

"There's been a shortage of research space in the McKinnon Building for us," said Joan Wharf Higgins, an associate professor in UVic's department of physical education. "We're getting more external funding to do interesting work, but there's no space for grad students to carry on their projects."

The renovations began in December and are scheduled for completion in May. There is no word on the price tag.

The institute will accommodate research labs for areas of study such as physiology, which, as Wharf Higgins explains, "looks at how the human body works in relation to exercise and physical activity."

"Some of the work done there will include developing fitness tests for police officers and firefighters [and] judging how fit they should be," said Wharf Higgins, the Canada Research Chair in Health and Society.

A second lab will look at movement skills and will investigate how children learn the motor movements that are necessary for jumping and throwing. This lab involves the use of video and photography equipment to capture and understand the biomechanics of movement.

"Previously, we had to book a squash court, bring all the video equipment in and set it up, but now it will always be ready to use," said Viviene Temple, a member of the PE department, who is excited about the new space and the advantages it will bring.

The information attained by the institute should help researchers understand how best to teach movement to children, as well as showing people with a physical disability how to be active. The lab will use treadmills and stationary bikes in order to measure how people respond to different physical stress.

The Health and Learning Knowledge Centre will also be located in the newly renovated space. Its research will examine the relationship between education and health, particularly how education can inform a person of their health.

Instead of doing treadmill testing, the research will work with community organizations such as schools and seniors' groups to try and understand which demographics are interested in learning about their health. Health knowledge is too often limited to periodical and academic journals, which researchers say leave the general public in the dark.

The immediate impact of the renovations is the loss of the majority of the squash courts at McKinnon. Only one court remains open during construction, but there are eight courts available at the Ian Stewart Complex.

"It's not a bad thing that they're being removed because they're underutilized," said Pete Lewis, public relations co-ordinator for athletics and recreation.

Eric Fell, president of the UVic Squash Club, agrees.

"To tell you the truth, the loss of the courts is not a problem at all," he said. "Those courts are too small for the international game anyway, so we just stick to the Ian Stewart courts that are in slightly better condition and are a little bigger."

The courts at McKinnon are used for of the American game, which traditionally uses a harder ball and a court sized roughly 5.5 by 9.75 metres. In addition to using a bigger playing space (6.5 by 9.75 metres), the international game (formerly British) is more popular, more widespread and uses a different scoring system.

"The only issue is that there might be a slight increase in the usage of the Ian Stewart courts as a result of the renovations at McKinnon," said Fell. Higgins said research labs at McKinnon will make a better use of space considering they are near other sport facilities and the PE department.

"We looked at a number of different locations on campus, but it seems that the squash court space made the most sense," she said.

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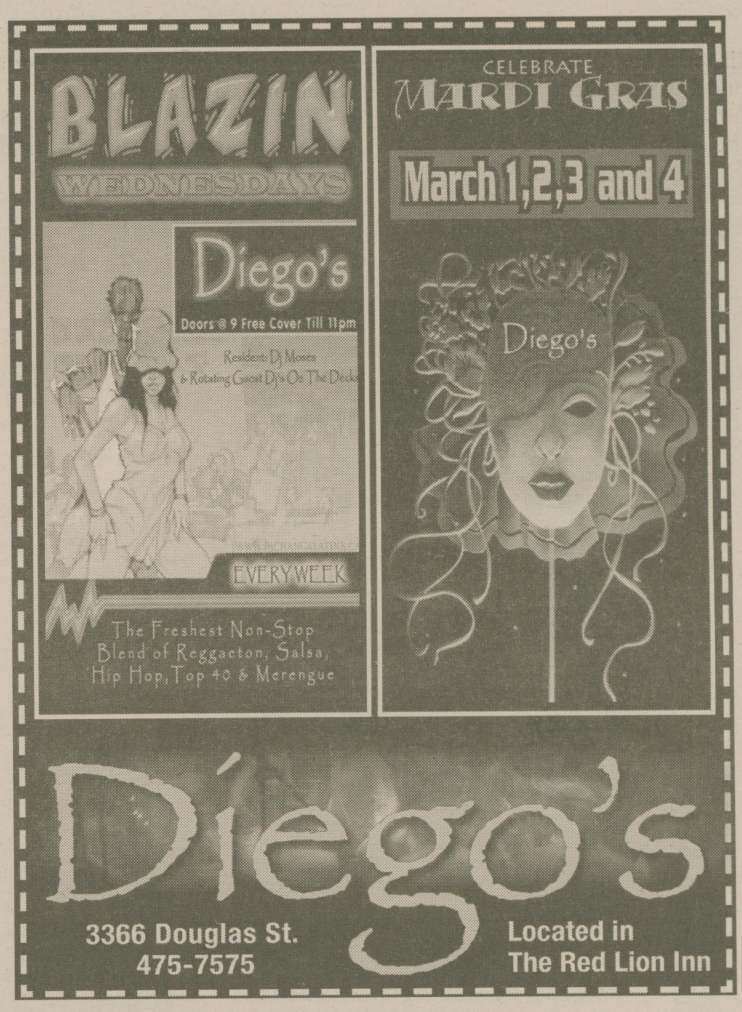

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Vikes ScoreBoard

Men's track

The Vikes 4x800-metre relay team won gold on Feb. 25 on the final day of the Canada West championships in Edmonton. With a time of seven minutes and 46.35 seconds, **Daniel Mallie**, **Brandon Green**, **Richard Lehman** and **Geoff Martinson** crossed the line six seconds ahead of second-place finisher University of Calgary.

Martinson and Lehman took second and third place respectively in the 1,000-metre with less than two seconds between them. Mallie trailed close behing for fourth place clocking in at 2:30.29.

Kris Swanson finished with a bronze medal in the 1,500-metre in 3:69.91. He edged out teammate **Logan Burke** who came fourth with 4:01.56.

Andrew McCartney earned his silver medal in the 3,000-metre in 9:18.24 while **Sean Mangan** took the bronze with 9:24.48.

Women's track

Fifth-year UVic runner **Tiffany Evans** took bronze in the 1,500-metre with a time of four minutes 40.58 seconds .

Christina Heisterman took fourth in the 3,000-metre.

The relay narrowly missed a medal but took fourth place in 9:39.90.

The Vikes track teams head to the CIS Championships at the University Saskatchewan March 9 to 11.

Women's basketball

Vikes 64 – 66 T-Birds

The UBC Thunderbirds put an end to the women's basketball season Feb. 18 in a tight Pacific Division semi-final.

The Vikes had a slight lead going into the break with the score at 31–30, and the game stayed close throughout the second half.

With the game tied at 58 with just under four minutes on the clock, the T-Birds took a time out. Eight points later the teams were again at a draw with mere seconds left. That's when UBC guard Kelsey Blair pulled up and hit a jumper—the game-winning basket.

With those two points, UBC put an end to the women's basketball season. The Vikes finished with a record of eight wins and 12 losses.

Leanne Shenton had 12 points and six boards in the loss.

Wanna stick it to the jocks?

Write about them.

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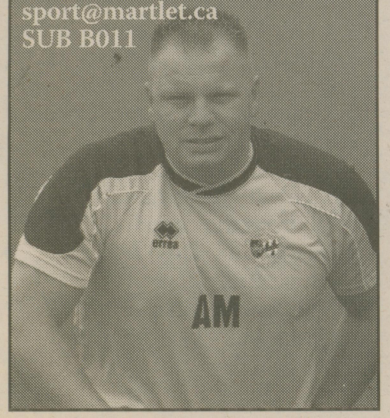
SUB B011



OLYMPIC SPOTLIGHT | FROM TORINO

Martlet does the 20th winter Olympiad

And enjoys the post-medal glow at a place dubbed 'Canada Tree'

by Gavin Day

Few things on this planet come close to defying words, but I have now experienced one of them.

I spent a week with two friends in and around the sites of the 20th winter Olympiad in Torino. The Games are so much more than the sporting events we see on television—the world's nations come together to celebrate the human spirit, and the energy is palpable.

The international community mingles and there is no protesting, rioting or violence. When was the last time a G8 summit or a World Trade Organization summit was free of hostility on the streets and in the boardroom?

While the fans we met (from Sweden, Britain, France, Italy, Slovenia and Mexico) cheered for rival athletes, it did not stop us from becoming close. These are merely a few examples of the international scope of the Games, but the two weeks were also an opportunity to bond with fellow Canadians.

For a Canadian at the Olympics there was no greater feeling than running into another person wearing a maple leaf somewhere on their clothes. In downtown Torino, Canada House was a small spot of home with an onsite HBC store well stocked with red and white Olympic gear. Nearby, British Columbia House, a log cabin made from beetle-infected pine, stood as a gift to the city and a sort of advertisement for the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

For me, there was never a better time to be Canadian. My friends and I were almost as popular with other fans and Italian volunteers as the athletes themselves. I can't put a number on the amount of people who wanted a picture with us "exotic" Canucks. Pins of the Canadian flag were also in high demand.

While the events and venues were the focus of the Olympics, organizers also showcased the city and surrounding areas. At a "Cultural Olympiad" visitors sampled Italian theatre, film, music and art. Pragelato, which hosted the ski jumping and cross-country skiing events, also hosted an ice-sculpting competition in the first week of the Games.

The Italian people seemed extremely enthusiastic about hosting the Games. We spoke with an elderly man who could watch the events from the front window of his home. Throughout the Alps, buildings and houses hung flags of the world from balconies and above the streets. The Jamaican flag was unusually common, perhaps because the Torino car manufacturer FIAT sponsors the Jamaican bobsleigh team.

We attended four events during our week at the Games. We watched the Canadian and Danish women curlers draw, caught the women and men's cross-country sprints and saw the women's aerials finals and Giant Slalom.

Without doubt, the best moment was watching 22-year-old Chandra Crawford ski to victory in the cross-country sprints. We were fortunate enough to sneak into the stands and sit with the family and friends of the Canadian team.

And as they were slowly eliminated, several of the men's team and Amanda Ammar of the women's team joined the Canadian cheering section. We were immediately welcomed as one of the family and cheered together, singing "O Canada" when Chandra received her gold medal. We congregated outside the stands at what was dubbed "Canada Tree" for an impromptu celebration and were joined by the champion and her new piece of hardware.

I cannot be more excited for the coming Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. Many people have argued against them because of the huge organizing costs, but the Olympics go beyond finances.

For 17 days, the world's eyes will be on us and for that time the world will watch as athletes and their supporters come together in peace. Sure, some will be rivals, but for the most part Olympic competition is a genuine moment to "Celebrate Humanity," as the 2006 International Olympic Committee affirms.

To all the naysayers of Vancouver 2010: the investment will be worth every penny.

But, there are just over two years until Beijing, and I need to find something to do until then . . .

PROVIDED PHOTO

With her gold medal in hand, Chandra Crawford grins with *Martlet* columnist Gavin Day in Torino .

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SFU suspends aquatic team over hazing

by Bryna Hallam

A series of games at a party has led to the suspension of Simon Fraser University's champion dive and swim team days before they were to defend their national titles.

The incident, which took place in September 2005, saw senior members of the aquatic team singling out junior members to perform a number of acts, including describing sexual fantasies involving other members of the team and being photographed in sexual positions while wearing their team uniforms.

Nello Angerilli, the school's acting associate vice-president for students, said that while the events were "by and large physically harmless," they constitute hazing.

"Because we have a very strict policy on [hazing], which is explained to all members of the swim team . . . the recommendation from recreation and athletics was we had to deal as strictly as possible with this event," said Angerilli. Revoking their ability to compete is meant to send a "very strong message that we're serious about this."

As a result, the team will not be competing in the North-America-wide National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championships in St. Louis, Missouri this week. The men's team is the defending champion while the women's team was last year's runner-up.

In total, 19 members of the team were suspended, including the junior members who were hazed. Three members absent from the party were not suspended; however, they chose not to compete in the championships.

Angerilli said the decision to suspend the junior members of the team was difficult, but that the policy is clearly explained to all team members.

"The junior members are specifically told they should not participate in hazing because they are the targets," he said, "and our view is that eliminating the targets of hazing would make it much more difficult to conduct one of these things.

"They were told when they're presented with a case or a situation where it looks like there is going to be some sort of induction ceremony beyond what the university sanctions that they should refuse to participate."

According to Angerilli, the response from members of the team has varied: some have said they recognize they did the wrong thing, while others believe the university has no business in what was a private party.

"Normally they'd be absolutely right," said Angerilli, but noted it was very clear that these were not random invitees and that the junior members were in their uniforms.

The university first became aware of the incident when head coach Liam Donnelly received an e-mail on Jan. 19 that was allegedly from one of the assistant coaches, who has since said in a sworn affidavit that he did not send it.

Angerilli said that the fact the e-mail was sent at all suggests the hazing had negative impact and that the group might not be solid as a team.

Two years ago, the aquatic team had what Angerilli called a "behavioural problem" that resulted in a training session on what hazing is and why it's a bad idea and appropriate behaviour for teams. The organizers of this year's event had all gone through that training.

In future, SFU plans to "broaden and deepen" the training given to athletic teams in order to prevent other incidents.

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SUMMER WORK: SUMMIT CAMP IN PENNSILVANYA IS LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES TO WORK WITH CHILDERN WITH ADHD AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES. EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO summitcampbc@hotmail.com OR PHONE 881-4928. FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE CAMP GO TO www.summitcamp.com.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Make a world of difference! Volunteer overseas with Youth Challenge International on a hands-on development project for 5 – 12 weeks. Ready to go next month? This summer? Visit www.yci.org to find out more!

Join Kidney Foundation volunteers canvassing in a neighbourhood near where you live for 2 hours in the month of March. The monies you raise benefit Kidney Patient Services, Medical Research, and Organ Donor Awareness Programs. Contribute to the wellness and betterment of your community! To volunteer or donate, please contact March Drive Coordinator Laurie Rubin @ 995-2696 or e-mail lrubin@shaw.ca.

Gain teaching experience. Wild ARC wild animal rehabilitation centre in Victoria is seeking volunteers that can contribute to the development and delivery of education programs to local schools. Email info@wildarc.ca.

WANTED AND APPRECIATED: volunteer childcare assistants at Kiwanis House playing with children while their parents participate in life skills, parenting and pre-employment training creating a better life for themselves and their children. Contact Rachel Calder at 382-1004 or khp@youthoutreach.ca.

Seize the moment - new skills, new friends and new opportunities — Volunteer Opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary—Nature Interpreter with school groups and Nature House Receptionist. For more information call 479-0211 or email: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca.

BE AN IN-SCHOOL MENTOR
Mentor a student in an elementary school 1 hour/week. Play games, sports, cook, read, do arts and crafts and other fun activities. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 475-1117 bonnie@bbbsvictoria.com.

ON CAMPUS

UVic Pride is looking for volunteers, including Vice-Chairperson, Financial Coordinator and Resource Coordinator! Contanct the Pride Office for more info: SUB B118 or pride@uvss.uvic.ca.

C. G. Jung Society of Victoria presents Father Larry Mackey, "Healing Life's Hurts," on 30 years' experience in finding healing for pain and brokenness. Fri., March 3, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., Rm. C-116 David Strong. Students $5, members $10, non-members $15.

Israel's "disengagement": The View from Gaza. After 6 months in the Middle East, photojournalist Jon Elmer will be discussing the Gaza "disengagement" and the shifting dynamics of the Israel-Palestine Conflict with photography and original reportage from on the ground in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem. Thursday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. at the David Lam Auditorium. Admission is Free Presented by VIPIRG and the Armed With Understanding Lecture Series. Co-sponsored by the Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundations and Kevin and Georgina Neish.

INSTITUTIONS, ENVIRO-INNOVATION AND IMPLICATIONS, March 6. Dr. Michael M'-Gonigle, Eco-Research Chair in Environmental Law and Policy and Director of the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, speaks about his upcoming book on the university as a site for environmental innovation and the related implications for legal thinking. If we are lucky, he may throw in a little Green Legal Theory as well. 12:30 p.m. Monday, March 6, 2006 in Rm 157, Fraser Law Building. More info: rsforbes@uvic.ca.

SERVICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Old Winery, Self-Storage Clean, Secure, Indoor Lockers. Open 7 days-a-week 3952 Quadra St. Victoria 250-727-2311.

International Women's Day 2006 Presented by the International Women's Rights Project, the Victoria Status of Women Group, and the Coalition for Community Women. Wednesday, March 8, 2006 Mongo Martin House, Royal BC Museum 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. Key Note speaker: Terri Brown - a Tahtlan First Nations woman from Turtle Island. Panel discussion to follow featuring speakers Minneh Kamau and Kinwa Bluesky. Free and open to the public. All welcome!

Breastfeeding or Pregnant and wanting to learn more? Looking for information or help? Wanting to meet other pregnant women or breastfeeding mothers? La Leche League Saanich/Gordon Head offers telephone support and meets monthly. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 8 at 10 a.m. The topic will be "What's Normal? and How to Avoid Problems", but we are happy to discuss any topic related to breastfeeding. For breastfeeding information and location details call 479-6184.

Terrazzo Fine Dining Benefit for Cool Aid. For Immediate Release: February 24 to March 6, 2006. Cool Aid's Streetlink and Sandy Merriman emergency shelters invite you to enjoy some fine Italian dining at Il Terrazzo Ristorante, on Monday evening, March 6. Donate the entire value of your dinner and drinks to Cool Aid's emergency shelters. 555 Johnson Street - behind Willie's Bakery. Monday, March 6 - starting at 5 p.m. For information call 361-0028.

Island Montessori Family Carnival and with Silent Auction. Saturday, May 27, 2006 at Doncaster Elementary School -1525 Rowan St. Time 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is Free with tickets starting at twenty-five cents and up for prize venues and games. Fun children games, bouncy castle, BBQ, bake sale and so much more. For more information please phone 514-9391.

Do you have a project idea that would help your community? United Way is seeking proposals for its Youth Initiatives Grants. Visit www.unitedwayvictoria.bc.ca or call 385-6708 for details.

On Saturday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m., VIVA Choirs presents the annual "Spring Sing!" concert at St. Aidan's United Church, 3703 St. Aidan's St., near Richmond & Cedar Hill X Rd., featuring six choirs with conductors Connie Foss More, Inge Illman & Steven Price. Guest youth choir "Corazon" from Nelson B.C., conducted by Allison Girvan MacDonald, will be featured as well. Talented young people share folk and classical music from many cultures, including familiar works by historical and living composers, and highlighting songs with an African beat. Tickets are $12 adults, $11 seniors, $5 age 18 & under at Long & McQuade Music (Hillside), Ivy's Bookshop (Oak Bay), or at the door. Call 472-2655 or check www.vivachoirs.ca for information. Social Co-op Forum for Lower Vancouver Island. Fairfield United Church, Lower Hall 8:30 (registration and coffee from 8 a.m.) to noon.

Victoria Queer Parents is a parenting group for members of the GLBT community in southern Vancouver Island who are considering becoming parents, are expecting, or are parenting babies and toddlers. The group meets regularly in Victoria. For more information, contact us by email: victoriaqueerparents@yahoo.ca.

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Is your life affected by someone's drinking? Help is available in the Victoria area. Call 383-4020 for more information or visit www.bcyukon-al-anon.org for more information.

Saanich Recreation offers fun and tasty cooking workshops for preteens, teens and adults in fully-outfitted demonstration kitchen at Colquitz Middle School. www.saanichrecreation.com or 475-5400 for details.

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Sam & Fuzzy

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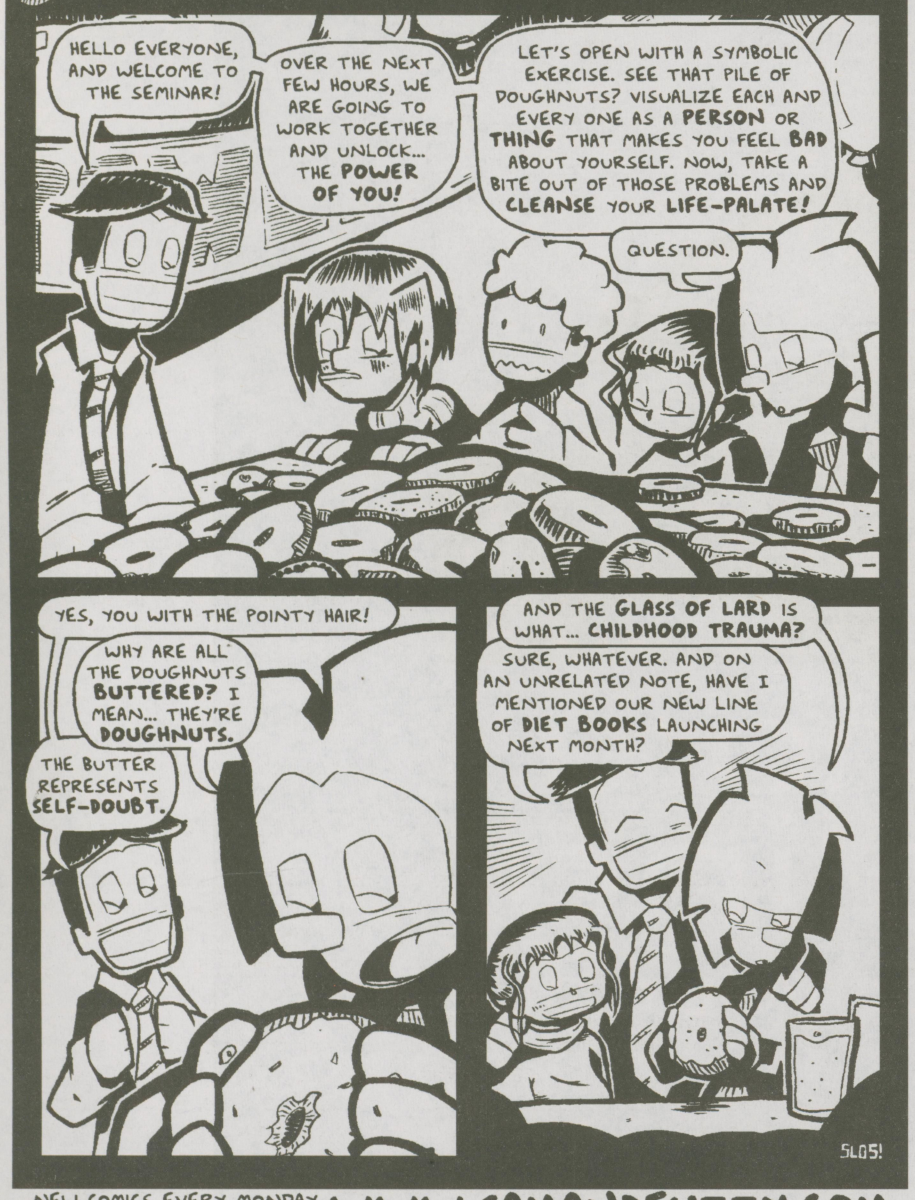

NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: **WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM**

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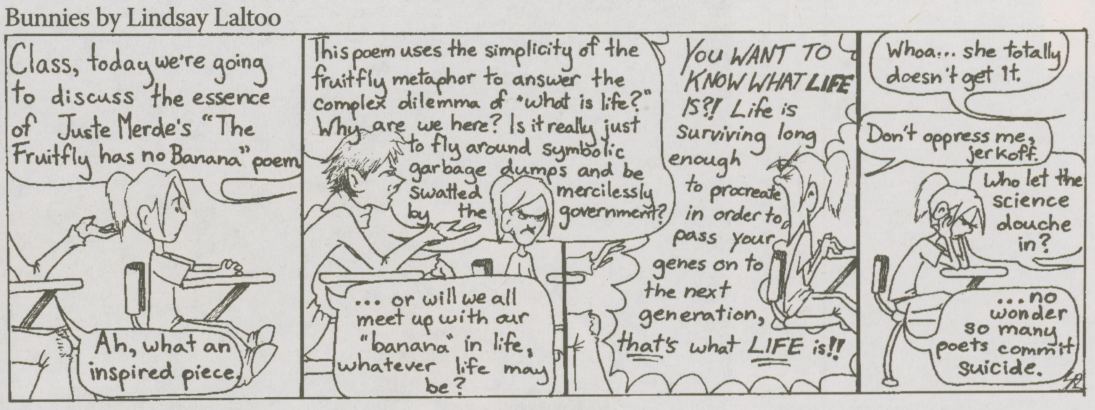

Cat by Caillin Smith

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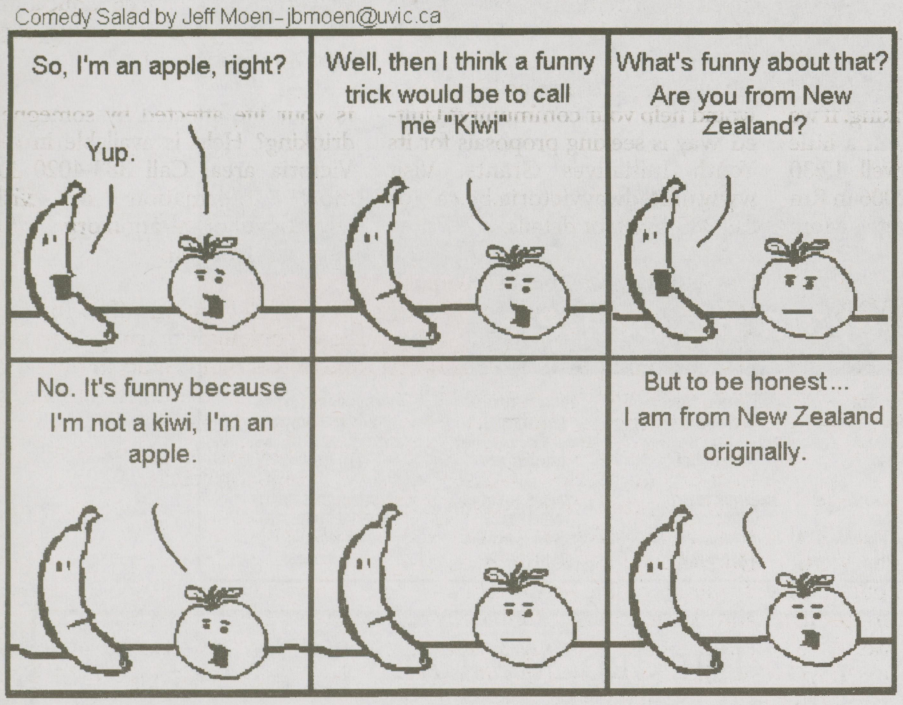
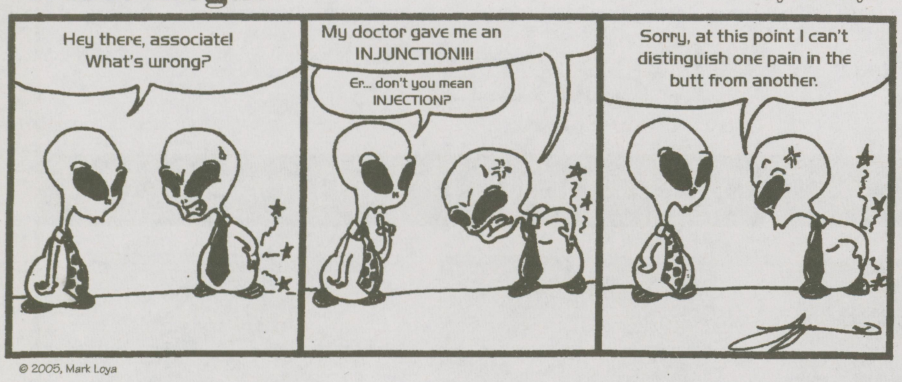
Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen - jbmoen@uvic.ca



Fleet Legal

By Mark Loya



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Potential Signs of a Gambling Problem:

- repeated unsuccessful attempts to quit
- spending bill money on gambling
- borrowing money from credit or others to gamble
- lying about wins and losses
- gambling to escape
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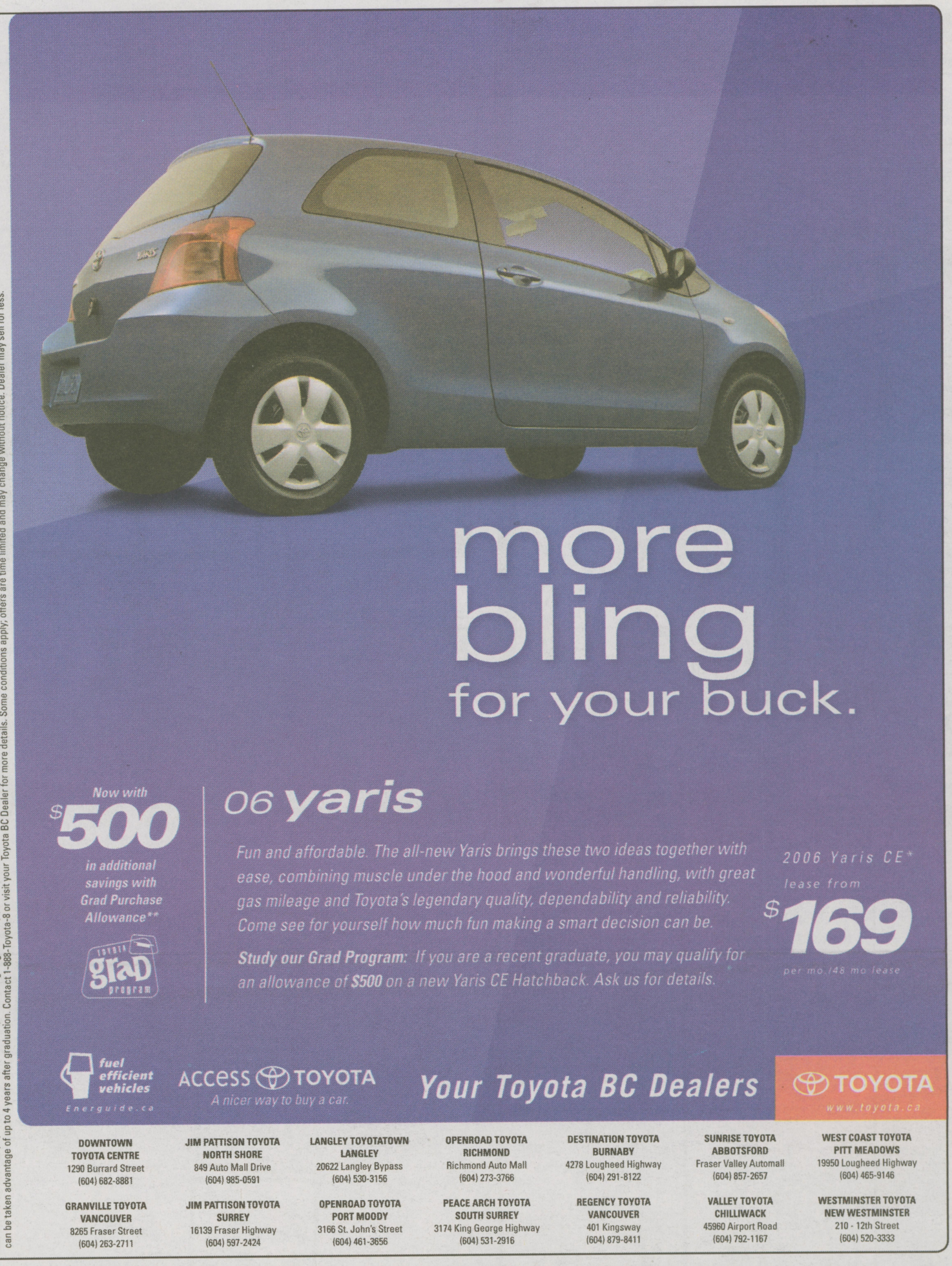

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(Actually we will accept photos of anything. Even bugs.)

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For submission guidelines and photo tips, e-mail photo@martlet.ca or stop by the Martlet office in SUB B011.

Deadline: Thursday, March 16th, Noon

Pictured is one of last year's finalists: "Man Bugs" by Allyson Gove

The 3rd Annual
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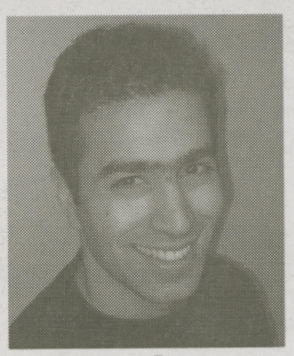
See the candidates duke it out onstage!



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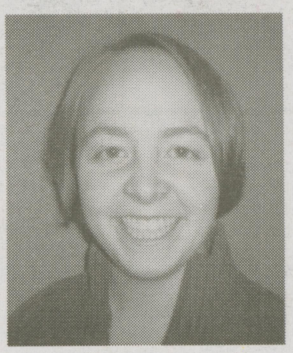

Penny Beames
Students for Progressive Change

Mike Waters
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